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50¢

Alert vs killer disease

By Haidee V. Eugenio
Variety News Staff

LOCAL and federal health officials have raised concerns on the possible outbreak of the dreaded Japanese encephalitis in Saipan following the case of a four-year old Chamorro girl who suspectedly died of the said mosquito-borne virus disease, the Department of Public Health (DPH) disclosed yesterday.

Another four-year old child is currently showing symptoms of Japanese encephalitis.

DPH suspects Japanese encephalitis cause of girl's death

Both DPH and the U.S. Centers for Communicable Diseases (CDC) are closely studying the two cases.

The names, addresses and other personal information about the two victims have been withheld.

DPH is thus urging the community to seriously take into consideration precautionary measures to avoid any mosquito-borne virus illness like Japanese encephalitis and dengue.

Ned Arriola, acting health secretary, pointed out however that both DPH and CDC are yet to confirm whether the girl really died of Japanese encephalitis or not.

"It is only a suspected case of Japanese encephalitis. We still have to confirm whether the girl died of JE or some other virus but she showed symptoms of it. But we are calling on the community to clean your surrounding to avoid



Ned Arriola

was admitted in the Commonwealth Health Center on May 27, showed signs of Japanese encephalitis. The child died on the same day.

Saipan recorded an outbreak of Japanese encephalitis in October 1990 with one male death and 14 cases. CDC assisted the CNMI in the said outbreak.

Symptoms of Japanese encephalitis usually appear six to eight days after the bite of an infected mosquito. Most infected persons develop mild symptoms or no symptoms at all.

In people who develop a more severe disease, the illness usually starts as a fever or flu, malaise, vomiting, drowsiness, convulsion, coma, headache, confusion, tiredness, chills and paralysis.

In issuing a stern warning to the community, Arriola said the current weather condition has increased the breeding of adult

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having mosquito breeding sites. Let us take all these seriously," Arriola told the *Variety*.

Japanese encephalitis, a disease caused by virus transmitted through bits of *Culex* mosquitoes, can affect the central nervous system and cause severe complications that may result in death.

Arriola said the first child, who



Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio (left) and Japan consul Yoshikuni Kono (right) join 80-year old Nicolas Q. Muna and his wife during yesterday's presentation ceremony. The order of the Rising Sun (Silver Rays) was conferred upon Muna in recognition of his help in the search and recovery of skeletal remains of Japanese soldiers in World War II.

Photo by Haidee V. Eugenio

Underwood warns about new US minimum wage legislation

Variety News Staff

CONGRESSMAN Robert Underwood has warned the business community about the introduction of new minimum wage legislation in both chambers of the U.S. Congress.

In a briefing given to the Guam Chamber of Commerce, Underwood said minimum wage legislation has been introduced in the U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives providing for an increase of more than one dollar in the current minimum wage.

In the U.S. Senate, the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 1999 introduced by Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, amends the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to



Robert Underwood

increase the Federal minimum wage (currently \$5.15 per hour) to \$5.65 an hour beginning September 1, 1999 and \$6.15 an hour beginning September 1, 2000.

A similar bill in the House of Representatives, H.R. 325 spon-

sored by Rep. David E. Bonior, has the same minimum wage provisions and has already been referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce.

According to Underwood, both Senate and House bills have features that also automatically applies the minimum wage to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

"So Guam businessmen who have business interests there should take note. The national minimum wage bills in Congress don't only seek to raise the minimum wage, they also have provisions to include the

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Saipan seen running out of cemetery space

By Jojo Dass

Variety News Staff

SAIPAN is quickly running out of cemetery space, it was learned.

The island, which has an average of 105 deaths a year, has only three public cemeteries — one at the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa, another in Tanapag, and still another one at Wireless Hill.

The Chalan Kanoa cemetery, according to Rep. Heinz Hofschneider, is now at "full capacity" with plots being "recycled," while the one in Tanapag is under decontamination due to a suspected cancer-causing synthetic chemical that has leaked from an abandoned World War II capacitor.

A dispute regarding private ownership of the Tanapag cemetery has also remained unresolved.

For its part, Wireless Hill cemetery has to be closed due to health concerns arising from the possible seepage of contaminants down a natural spring by the hill's foot. The spring is source of potable water for most of Tanapag and northern Saipan.

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9 more charged in federal court for alien smuggling

By Ferdle de la Torre

Variety News Staff

THE US government yesterday indicted in federal court nine more persons in connection with the smuggling of undocumented Chinese immigrants to Guam.

Charged in three separate indictments were Jin Dian Xiao, Wen Qui Guo, Wen Shen Guo, Guo Ming Xiao, Liang Zhou, He Kang Lin, Ming Sheng Lee, Nan Qi Wong, and Jia Hui Lin.

The US District Court for the NMI set no bail for the temporary release of all defendants.

Jin Xiao, Wen Qui Guo, Wen

Shen Guo, Guo Xiao, Zhou, He Lin, were charged with conspiracy to commit an offense against the US alien smuggling for financial gain, attempted alien smuggling for alien smuggling, and attempted alien smuggling to a place other than at a designated port.

On the other hand, Lee, Wong, and Jia Lin were charged with attempted alien smuggling for financial gain and encouraging and inducing an alien to the US.

Court documents showed that during the early part of April defendants Jin Xiao, Wen Qui Guo,

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Kosovo talks drag on

By MELISSA EDDY
KUMANOVO, Macedonia (AP) — Yugoslav and NATO generals haggled all night over details of Belgrade's withdrawal from Kosovo but failed by Wednesday morning to finalize an agreement — the key step toward ending Western air attacks and allowing refugees to return home.

After nearly 10 hours of talks, a NATO official, speaking on condition of anonymity, expressed "cautious optimism" that the Yugoslavs would conclude an agreement later Wednesday with British Lt. Gen. Michael Jackson.

But the official said issues raised in the talks must be approved by "the halls of power." He did not elaborate, but the remark suggested that President Slobodan Milosevic's government was seeking substantive changes in the proposed agreement.

The official said the major stumbling blocks were the timing of the Yugoslav withdrawal from Kosovo, ending the NATO bombing campaign and U.N. Security Council approval of the peace-keeping force.

Russia and China, members of the Security Council, insist that NATO formally end the bombing before they approve the peace-keeping force. NATO is willing to suspend the campaign but wants to see the start of a "substantial" withdrawal before formally stopping the bombardment.

The official also indicated there were disagreements on how many Serbs could remain in Kosovo. The United States and its allies want all Serb police, soldiers and paramilitary militias to leave at



British Prime Minister Tony Blair (left) and German Chancellor Gerhard Schröder host a joint press conference in the garden of 10 Downing St in London Tuesday. The G8 powers have injected renewed momentum into the push for peace in the Balkans. AP

first, saying that "hundreds" could later return to guard religious sites, watch borders and clear minefields. The Yugoslav went into the talks reportedly demanding that thousands of their troops be allowed to remain.

NATO had insisted it would not negotiate on substantive, political issues although it was prepared for technical adjustments to the plan. Among other things, the Yugoslavs fear Kosovo Albanian rebels could exploit the withdrawal to rush more fighters into

the province.

Despite the peace moves, NATO intensified its air campaign, flying 658 sorties over a 24-hour period ending at mid-day Tuesday.

NATO spokesman Jamie Shea said that was a 50 percent increase since Thursday, when Milosevic accepted a peace proposal.

Tanjung reported Wednesday that more than 2,000 civilians have been killed and more than 5,000 wounded in 11 weeks of NATO

air raids on Yugoslavia.

Washington and NATO have accused Milosevic of breaking his promise to abide by last week's agreement by stalling earlier talks on the pullout. The agreement requires complete withdrawal followed by the deployment of an international peacekeeping force to oversee the return of the ethnic Albanian refugees to their homes.

The talks at Kumanovo, a French military garrison near the Kosovo border, began late Tuesday after eight major pow-

ers signed off on the text of a Kosovo peace plan sent to the U.N. Security Council for final approval.

The United States, Russia and six leading democracies authorized a text Tuesday requiring a peacekeeping force for Kosovo with "substantial" NATO participation. Under the plan, NATO would suspend the bombing once it verified that a substantial troop withdrawal was underway.

That would pave the way for the U.N. Security Council to approve the peace plan, under which 50,000 international peacekeepers would move into the province.

After more than three hours, Gen. Svetozar Marjanovic and two senior Yugoslav delegates drove back to Kosovo—about 10 kilometers (6 miles) away—to confer with higher authorities, NATO officials said. The three returned about an hour later and continued talking past dawn.

U.S. President Bill Clinton said only "a verifiable withdrawal of Serb forces will allow us to suspend the bombing and go forward with the plan."

In Washington, Pentagon spokesman Kenneth Bacon said U.S. intelligence has detected Serb preparations to withdraw from Kosovo, although no troops are moving or assembling for a pullout.

However, NATO spokesman Maj. Gen. Walter Jertz said that the Serbs were in fact reinforcing positions in western Kosovo, sending additional tanks toward the Albanian border where the Yugoslav army is fighting ethnic Albanian rebels.

Analysts: Asia needs time

By LAURINDA KEYS
SINGAPORE (AP) — Although Asia's economies will probably improve this year, time is needed from Japan to Singapore for restructuring that will bring back healthy growth, American analysts said Wednesday in a press conference on the region's outlook.

The main question is whether Japan, Asia's biggest economy, will recover or not, and when, the analysts acknowledged in a satellite teleconference organized by the U.S. Information Service.

"I've never known a time where there has been more uncertainty about the Japanese outcome,"

said Lawrence Krause, coordinator for the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council two-year forecast, which was released Tuesday.

The PECC report forecast average growth of 2.6 percent this year for the 23-nation Asia-Pacific region and 2.9 percent in 2000, adding to the string of surveys that suggest the worst of the two-year Asian financial crisis is over.

But Krause, a member of the U.S. Council on Foreign Relations, speaking from Washington, D.C., said Japan still has imbedded economic problems.

Optimists, he said, point Japan's permanent tax cuts in April that might spur consumption, low

inventory in Japan that demands replenishment, and a rise in imports by other Asian countries, from each other and Japan.

Terry Hatchett, the Asia managing partner for Arthur Anderson and associates, noted the monumental sums involved in a bailout of failing banks in Japan. "The Japanese government, finally, after nine years of recessions, is dealing with the fundamental issues," he said. "If they do it right it would be a significant engine of growth for the whole region."

The PECC report predicted a 2.5 percent contraction of Indonesia's economy this year.

Clinton increases his 2000 budget request



Bill Clinton

WASHINGTON (Reuters) — President Clinton Tuesday asked Congress for an additional funding for his spending plan for the next fiscal year, including increases for embassy security and added funds to conduct the census.

Submitting budget amendments to Congress, Clinton called for adding \$864 million over five years to increase security at U.S. diplomatic facilities around the world.

Clinton, whose 2000 budget plan proposed spending \$3.5 billion over five years for improving

safety at U.S. diplomatic missions, said the request for additional money was necessary because of "terrorist threats."

"In light of the steady stream of terrorist threats, I urge Congress to act quickly to provide the funding that will enable us to construct new, more secure embassies and facilities for American diplomatic personnel serving abroad," Clinton said in a statement.

He also called for more than \$1.7 billion to fund the 2000 Census, in order to pay for additional staff and equipment to conduct the survey of the U.S. population.

The Supreme Court ruled earlier this year that the administration could not use statistic sampling to estimate the population. The procedure was considered less costly than trying to conduct a physical count.

Clinton also asked for an additional \$60 million to help implement the Pacific Salmon Treaty recently reached between Canada, the United States, Alaska, Washington state and Oregon, and two Indian tribes.

Court lifts TRO vs Borja

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

SUPERIOR Court Associate Judge Juan T. Lizama yesterday dissolved a temporary restraining order he had earlier issued stopping Tinian Mayor Francisco M. Borja from terminating some employees because of their political affiliation.

Lizama underscored the need to cancel the TRO, saying the plaintiffs did not comply with the Commonwealth Rules of Civil Procedure as there was no complaint served to Borja.

Loren Sutton, legal counsel for Borja, in an interview after the hearing said since there's no more TRO it's now up to the mayor to decide whether he will terminate the employees or not.

Sutton earlier stated that the mayor complied with the TRO by calling back the terminated employees to work until such time the case is resolved.

On the other hand, John M. Chambers, counsel for the petitioners, said he already filed yes-

terday morning the complaint and their next move is to serve that to the mayor's counsel.

"If the mayor terminates them again, I will file another TRO to get them back in the payroll because they are terminated for improper purposes," Chambers stressed.

Chambers, on behalf of 18 employees of Tinian Mayor's Office, have sought a TRO, preliminary and permanent injunction against Borja for allegedly terminating them illegally.

The petitioners said more than 20 employees were coerced by the mayor to either support his favored candidates during the coming Nov. elections or risk being terminated from their position.

Lizama then granted the TRO due "to the irreparable injury to the petitioners by depriving them of their livelihood through political coercion."

Assistant Atty. Gen. William Bush, counsel for Borja, filed a motion to dissolve the existing TRO, deny any application for



Francisco M. Borja

further injunctive relief, and dismiss the entire action for failure of process.

Bush also asked the court to require plaintiffs to follow proper procedures and notice requirements in the future should they decide to pursue further legal action.

The court, Bush pointed out, should dismiss this matter from its docket for failure to meet the most basic requirement to commence a civil action.

Bush said the court should dis-

solve the TRO improperly granted in favor of plaintiffs.

The government lawyer contended that plaintiffs did not provide proper notice to Borja as required by the Commonwealth Rules of Civil Procedure.

"By concealing this proceeding from the Attorney General's Office, plaintiffs have succeeded in depriving the government of the opportunity to present arguments and evidence that would have weighed heavily against the granting of a TRO," Bush said.

The Mayor's Office, he explained, has had to make drastic operational cuts due to the CNMI's reduced revenues.

Without substantial staff reductions, the office will face four weeks of payless paydays at the end of Fiscal Year 1999, Bush claimed.

"These employees were identified months ago in preparation for the Mayor's submittal of the FY 2,000 budget to the governor," he said, adding that a 60-day termination notices were given to

employees.

Bush explained that pursuant to the requirements of Rule 4 of the Civil Procedures—summons must be in proper form, bearing the seal of the court, it must be served upon by a person qualified under the rule, and to effect service upon an official of the Commonwealth, service must be made both upon the official and the AGO.

He said plaintiffs have not failed in just one of these requirements, but have failed each and every one.

Chambers explained that he has been doing it for quite some time—filing a TRO and subsequently file a complaint in two separate cause of actions.

Chambers in the complaint sought for an injunctive order barring the mayor from terminating the plaintiffs as a result of political coercion.

The plaintiffs also sought for damages for breach of contract, lost opportunity, and emotional distress against the mayor.

CNMI consumers alerted on tainted European food

By Aldwin R. Fajardo
Variety News Staff

GOVERNOR Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday alerted consumers from the Northern Marianas against buying dioxin-contaminated dairy and meat products imported from European countries that could be sold in local market.

Tenorio has instructed officials from the Department of Public Health to remain vigilant on the imported products, especially those coming from Europe which may have found their way into several department stores and groceries in the Northern Marianas.

But the governor would not say whether the Commonwealth is banning the sale of dairy and meat products from four European countries due to the widely reported contamination with cancer-causing dioxin.

He said, however, that the government will be sending out inspectors to look at the possibility that some of the imported food products here are among those reported to have been contaminated with dioxin.

Several countries in Asia, including Hong Kong, Korea, Singapore and Thailand, have

stopped the sale of beef and dairy products from Belgium, France, Germany and the Netherlands.

While it maintains an apparent lax action on the food scare by not immediately banning food products from the four European countries, the CNMI government has advised consumers to carefully choose food products that they buy.

Several small and big stores on Saipan are selling imported infant formulas and baby products, as well as meat and poultry.

Government officials believe banned products have also been imported to the Northern Marianas in the form of chocolates, biscuits and related products.

The Belgian government has banned several categories of food to its citizens following the discovery of dioxin contamination in animal feed. The United States has blocked European Union imports of pork and poultry.

The food scare is considered Europe's worst since Britain's 1996 Mad Cow disease. Belgium's food industry federation said the crisis has cost the sector about \$500 million in 11 days.

Guam gets funding for new drug court

By Tanya M.C. Mendiola
Variety News Staff

HAGATNA — The Superior Court of Guam will be receiving some help from the Dept. of Justice's Office of Justice Programs to set up a drug court on island.

Congressman Robert A. Underwood announced that the

Superior Court is slated to receive \$30,000 in federal grand money to further establish a drug court program. 147 jurisdictions nationwide will also receive money to develop a federal drug court program.

Underwood Spokesperson Cathy Gault said the federal **Continued on page 27**

CUC 'cautious' on new desal plan

By Haldee V. Eugenio
Variety News Staff

THE COMMONWEALTH Utilities Corporation (CUC) yesterday disclosed the newly-drafted request for proposal (RFP) for the water desalination plant project still needs fine tuning.

However, despite the water desalination steering committee's failure to finalize the new RFP in time for yesterday's Board meeting, committee chairman Benjamin Sablan assured it will not take very long before the project materializes compared to the time consumed in finalizing the original RFP.

"We got the (new) RFP right

now, but it is a matter of getting all things together and make the necessary changes, additions, deletions within the package," said Sablan but did not give a time frame on when the actual project construction will start.

Once the necessary changes are made, the proposed RFP will then be presented to the whole Board for approval, and finally, for the bidding process.

"Hopefully, with the experiences that the task force and the whole CUC, and their participation in the original RFP, it will expedite (the solving of) this problem," Sablan said.

He also pointed out that CUC still has other projects aimed at solving the water crisis in the

CNMI.

"CUC, in its master plan does not only call for a (water) desalination because there are other projects ongoing... but everything works in addressing the water crisis in the island, that's why we cannot toss this (desalination) away," said the Board member.

Meanwhile, CUC Board chairman Juan dela Cruz said the Board is willing to approve the proposed RFP to address the water crisis in the island.

"It is encouraging to know that even during these tough economic times, CUC has a vision for the future and through financially sound management, CUC

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CNN's Lou Dobbs resigns

By Steve James
NEW YORK (Reuters) — CNN financial anchor Lou Dobbs, one of the most widely recognized business journalists on television, resigned Tuesday to start up an Internet company after 19 years with the cable network.

Dobbs, who joined CNN at its

inception in 1980, will leave to start news website www.space.com, effective on June 11, CNN said.

The \$1 million-a-year host of the evening showcase "Moneyline NewsHour with Lou Dobbs," president of CNNfn and also executive vice president of Time Warner-

owned CNN, recently had a falling out with CNN President Rick Kaplan.

Their feud became public last month when Kaplan ordered technicians to cut away from a "Moneyline" show in progress to cover a President Clinton news conference in Littleton, Colorado.

APPU fails to discuss Spratlys

By Aldwin R. Fajardo
Variety News Staff

THE 65th Asian Pacific Parliamentarians' Union Council Meeting here could have been a good avenue for the Philippine government to air its concerns on the alleged Chinese intrusion to the country's exclusive economic zone.

But technical difficulties barred the Philippine National Delegation to include the issue on the list

of items that would be discussed during the three-day conference here which ended yesterday.

The Philippine delegation, led by Congressman Carlos Padilla, failed to submit its proposed resolution raising the government's concern on the alleged Chinese activities within the country's 200-mile exclusive economic zone.

The most Padilla could do was

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Deadline set for power plant offers

By Haldee V. Eugenio
Variety News Staff

ALL THE nine firms vying for the construction of the \$120 million CNMI power plant have until June 18 to submit their best and final offer for the long-awaited project, the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation yesterday said during a Board meeting.

CUC Board chairman Juan S. Dela Cruz pointed out the agency

continues to focus its attention on projects to improve the services to its customers.

"To that end, the Saipan power plant project is back on track with the new request for best and final offer having been issued on May 21 with responses due on June 18," said Dela Cruz.

The Board chairman also expressed hopes the firms will meet **Continued on page 21**

FORUM

A Meeting Place For Our Opinions... And Yours...

STRIKE THAT!

By Ferdie P. de la Torre



Come and Go

IT WAS almost 1 a.m. yet I was wide awake lying on a couch watching a TV program. I then heard a car arrived and parked in front of our apartment in Dandan. Nobody, however, got down from the car. I went inside my room and saw my roommate and co-reporter Rick Alberto already asleep. I suspected that the passenger of the car was my other co-reporter Mar-Vic Munar who occupied the other room in the same apartment. I peeped through the jalousie window and noticed it was not Mar-Vic's vehicle. When still nobody came out from the car after a few minutes, I decided to turn off the TV. When still no one opened the door, I slowly crawled on the floor towards the telephone.

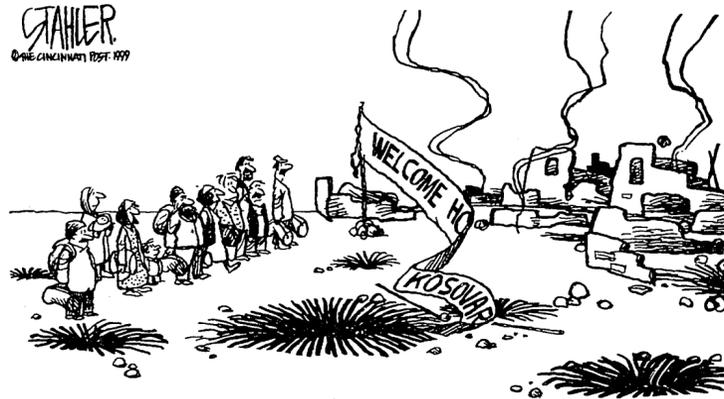
The previous night, I received a call from a man, reminding me to be careful in writing about police stories and criminal cases. I was thinking that the caller could be the occupant of the car. I was about to dial 911, but I changed my mind. Instead, I crawled to the kitchen and grabbed a knife. "I'm going to get this criminal!" I told myself. Armed with the kitchen knife, I opened the apartment's back door and slowly moved towards the car. It was dark outside and I was not wearing my prescription glasses. I could not see from a distance who was in the vehicle so I have to get closer by hiding behind the plants. I heard two people talking in the car. I tightly held the knife with my right hand. I jumped behind a tree which was about eight feet away from the car.

The light inside the car was on, but I could not recognize who were inside. When I heard two occupants of the car were just discussing an issue, I decided to retreat to the house. Later, I heard somebody opened the door. I sat on the floor at the dark portion in the living room still clutching the knife. It was a relief because Mar-Vic was the one who entered the room. Surprised upon seeing me on the floor, she asked what I was doing. "Huhhh! I almost kill you!" I told her. She started cracking up and explained she was just arguing with a federal official in the car.

One morning, I saw Mar-Vic hurriedly ironing her clothes in her room as she prepared to go to work. She told me that she needed money badly because she was caught by the police that night for minor traffic violation. I looked at her again. I felt pity. Here, I observed a scene of a mother—working away from her home and kids, preparing her things to work, and recalling how she was caught by an officer. It was me who convinced her and Rick Alberto in Manila four years ago to work at the Marianas Variety. After more than a year staying in that apartment, all five doors of the house were literally broken. We could open the house by kicking either the three doors. We neglected the house because we were so busy with our personal lives. Our boss decided to take us to the barracks, which our police officer neighbor called the White House.

Last year, Rick went back home to Manila after serving three years in the paper. Just like that. He used to be my yearly partner during the annual Good Friday trek to Mt. Tapochau. Yesterday, it was Mar-Vic's last day in our office. And it was also yesterday when a lawmaker came to our office and then later threatened to sue her for simply expressing her honest opinion of an issue. Just like that. I could feel the pain that lawmaker inflicted on my friend. He ruined Mar-Vic's supposedly happy farewell day. But it's part of our job. And believe me, it's tough especially if you are a mere guest worker. Only a few cares. But life goes on. For me, Rick and Mar-Vic were not just my former roommates but they were once members of this happy Variety family. And somehow, they did their part in their own little way contributing to the history and growth of this community. Just like any other foreign workers here who come and go.

A JUDGE said he wanted to see all Larry Hillblom kids to receive at least partial shares of the multimillion estate. But for some lawyers involved in the Hillblom probate, the judge said: "I want to see most of you rather go to Banzai and Suicide Cliffs."



Letter to the Editor

Thank you MVA, others

Dear Editor:
In today's world, where monetary income is essential for survival, the perpetuation of the arts and most especially the indigenous traditional artforms is inevitably dependent on their ability to provide economic sustenance to the artist.

This is the simple reality. No longer are baskets needed to hold food, canoes required to travel from island to island and traditional methods of construction necessary, as was required some time ago.

For the most part, we use items that are readily available at stores, planes bop from island to island and cement and hollow blocks serve as the building materials of choice.

Although no longer utilitarian in nature, these cultural craft forms are important in that they provide a log of the long and vibrant history of the residents of these islands. No less important than a written history that might be found in any textbook.

These artforms which have shown incredible durability, standing the very turbulent test of time, attest to the strength and resilience of the Chamorro and Carolinian cultures. These artforms are unique to the Northern Marianas, and their promotion can provide that flavor, that something that differentiates the CNMI from every other sun-drenched and palm-speckled island tourist destination, at the same time, perpetuating itself through the economic gain reaped by the CNMI and the artist through this symbiotic relationship.

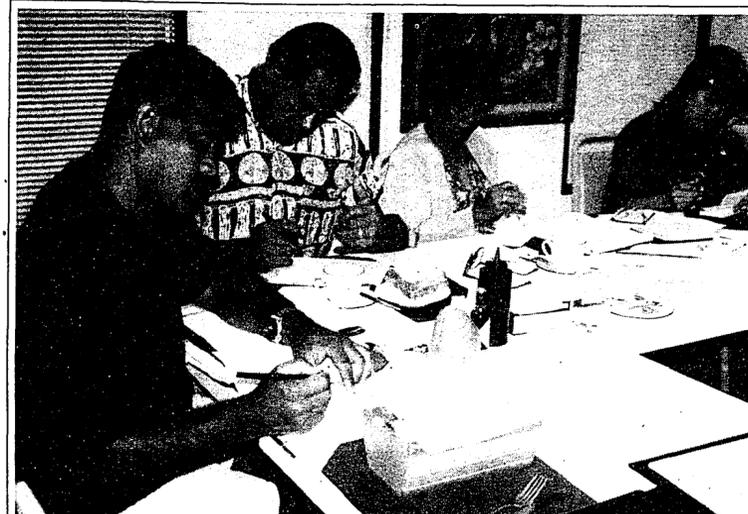
I would like to thank the Marianas Visitors' Authority (MVA) for their support in this effort to bring the arts and visitor industry together. In recent months this has included performances at the airport by local musicians for incoming visitors, locally produced art and craftwork on display at the MVA offices and at MVA's activities, facilitation of artist and performer participation at the events of visitor industry companies, sponsorship of the Flame Tree Arts Festival and the upcoming Marianas' Traditional Dance Festival, and in the assignment of the Sugar King Park Building as a local arts and craft gallery and shop.

In a number of recent meetings that included the participation of various visitor industry representatives from different private companies, a number of questions relating to arts and cultural activities were posed by these individuals, "where can tourists go to view CNMI culture, see performances?" "where can tourists go to view and purchase traditional crafts?"

Through the assistance of MVA and other private sponsors and agencies, initial efforts have been made to make these activities available to our visitors. Inevitably, a resolve to fund facilities for such a cultural and performing arts center in the future, would be the most ideal direction.

ROBERT H. HUNTER

LETTERS to the editor must carry the full name of the writer and signature, with a telephone number (in case of faxed or mailed letters) for verification. Letters addressed to other publications or to third parties and those endorsing particular political candidates are discouraged. All letters are subject to editing. The Variety reserves the right to reject any letters. Name withheld and unsigned letters will not see print.



The school administrators busy themselves during the standard-based teaching and learning seminar at the Pacific Gardenia Hotel yesterday. Photo by Maria C. Alonso

Army Corps taken aback by erosion at Managaha

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

THE UNITED STATES Army Corps of Engineers is "quite taken" aback by the evidence of erosion at the Mañagaha Island, according to Rep. Heinz Hofschneider.

In an interview yesterday, Hofschneider however said Corps representatives declined to divulge possible action that may be taken to address the situation.

He said the Corps will back before the month ends to conduct further survey of the island's top soil layers.

"The Army Corps is very methodical in its responsibility. They don't come out hastily and say they will do this and do that. They

are coming back sometime before the end of the month with a surveyor to do some survey on the dry land," said Hofschneider.

"They did not give an indication on anything except that they obviously are quite taken by the evidence of erosion. They agree that there is an evidence of erosion in Mañagaha," said Hofschneider.

The congressman said there are a number of possible mitigation steps that can be taken to contain the erosion problem.

All of these however, require a "lengthy process" to implement. "There are some possible mitigation but they all require a lengthy process," said

Hofschneider, adding that a break-water structure by the Mañagaha Island's northern tip can help deter erosion.

"If that is permissible and feasible, then the next step will be to do cost-benefit analysis and so forth," said Hofschneider.

The erosion in Mañagaha is believed caused by last year's dredging of the Saipan channel to make it 40 feet deeper so that larger sea vessels may be accommodated.

The dredging project was spearheaded by the Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA).

It is believed to have altered the channel's undercurrent, thereby causing the erosion.

Gutierrez appoints members of Ancestral Land Commission

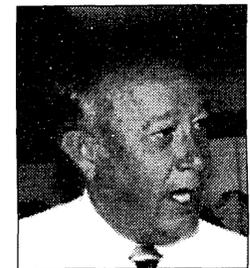
By Eric F. Say
Variety News Staff

HAGATNA — As part of yesterday's historic signing of the Ancestral Lands Act by Gov. Carl T.C. Gutierrez, six of the seven member panel that is charged with bringing original land and their rightful owners together after federal government return was named and sworn in.

John Camacho, chairman of the Lands Commission said, "this is a very important moment in the history of Guam. It was just two weeks ago that the opening of the Ritidian, Urumao and Rt. 3a area happened and now this."

Camacho told those assembled that if Guam does not get blindsided by the U.S. Congress thousands of acres of federal land will be coming back by the end of the year. He pledged that as head of the ALC he would see that everyone appearing before the commission would be treated fairly and honestly.

"You all have my word that issues ahead of us are going to be



Carl T.C. Gutierrez

difficult at times but we know what is in the hearts of each and everyone that has been asking to get back that which is theirs," Camacho said.

Gutierrez then announced all but one of the remaining seats. "This working group is comprised of land activists that for many years have fought in different ways to have returned to them that which rightfully belongs to them," Gutierrez said.

They are: Chairman John

Hofschneider: New jail will be well-secured

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

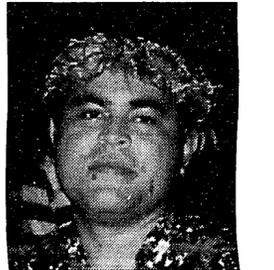
THE NEW detention facility will have a good security system that can foil any attempt by inmates to escape or take hostages, according to the head of the House Correctional Facility Planning Committee

At the same time, Rep. Heinz Hofschneider said Lichtman Associates, which has been hired to help the CNMI government plan for the facility, will be on Saipan next month for a second visit to share some key indicators that will authorities to decide on the detention center's interior set-up. "By then, we can share some initial decisions that the task force and the planning people have come up with. They will compile all the statistics and information so that we make a decision, an academic decision on what size is appropriate," said Hofschneider, in an interview.

He added that there currently is a debate on whether 250 or 700 cells are needed.

"We are in the planning process that will determine what the projections will tell us for the next 10 to 20 years. It is a difficult job but it is a matter of what the community wants," Hofschneider added.

Hofschneider said factors under consideration are the tenden-



Heinz Hofschneider

cies of legislators in passing laws that affects people in jail as well as that of the court juries.

Hofschneider assured the \$17-million new detention facility will have security systems that can foil escape and hostage-taking attempts.

"This planned detention facility is being built with a high level of security," said Hofschneider.

He said actual work on the project's first phase is expected to begin next week.

"We have a contract signed. The first agenda of the (committee) is to immediately provide for the minimum security facility simply because we are overwhelmed with the population in the main (old) facility. We can not let detainees mingle.

Off air, but back soon

By Marian A. Maraya
Variety News Staff

FOR PEOPLE who have considered (KSRI) Hot 98 a part of their daily routine, Hot 98's going off air for over a week is sad news.

"I can't drink my morning coffee without you guys," says one Hot 98 listener.

Hot 98 has been off air since Sunday morning because of a lightning incident which dam-

aged important transmission equipment.

"We are shooting for Saturday to get back on air but if things don't work out, we may have to wait until Monday morning, at the latest," said Hot 98 Operations Director, Laura Lynn.

Regular listeners have been calling the station, expressing their concern about Hot 98's

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More EIC checks mailed

By Aldwin R. Fajardo
Variety News Staff

AN INDICATION that the government's fiscal house has been fixed, Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday disclosed the finance department mailed out another batch of Earned Income Credit (EIC) checks Monday.

The second batch of checks carries the payment for another 25 percent of the total tax credits earned by low-income Northern Marianas recipients during the 1997 fiscal year.

According to the governor, over \$1.5 million in EIC checks had been put out Monday, bringing to half the total amount of money

released by the government as payment to the Public Law-guaranteed tax break.

Tenorio also assured that his Administration would immediately process another payment, or the third batch of 25 percent, as soon as the Department of Finance identifies the needed fund.

"As soon as the fund is made available, we will put out the additional 25 percent so we will be able to eventually pay the entire amount," he told reporters yesterday.

The Department of Finance has assured subsequent payments will be made as soon as funding becomes available. It expressed in-

tentions to complete payments of EIC refunds by November this year.

He said works are now underway to replenish public coffers that would enable the government to release the third batch of payments for the EICs earned two years ago.

Release of the 1997 EIC checks has been postponed several times due to the unavailability of government funds that would finance the payment of some \$6 million.

The Department of Finance mailed out 25 percent of EIC payment in April. DOF is processing EIC refund on an installment payment schedule, containing only 25 percent of the entire claim per release, or a minimum of \$500, due to the limited availability of

funds. Recipients claiming more than \$500 will get 25 percent of their claims per government release of checks.

Across the board payments will be made to all EIC recipients, regardless of return or filing date. Officials said checks will be mailed out and that the finance department will not allow personal pick up.

More than 2,500 low-income earning CNMI residents have been waiting for their 1997 EIC checks, the last after the governor signed a law scrapping the payment of the tax incentive to indigent residents with dependents.

EIC is a government incentive awarded in a form of tax breaks to

low income-earning residents of the Northern Mariana Islands who have dependents under Public Law 9-22.

At the same time, Tenorio issued an assurance that taxpayers will receive their rebates before the law-mandated October deadline. He said the government will immediately release rebate checks as soon as the DOF identifies funding.

He added that unlike the EIC, rebates will be paid on a lumpsum basis. "We have to pay the whole amount because that's not our money. EIC is very specific that we should pay upon the availability of fund. With rebates, employees are entitled to that, so we should find ways to pay."

Tenorio backs local control of American Memorial Park

By Aldwin R. Fajardo
Variety News Staff

GOVERNOR Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday backed a proposal from the CNMI Legislature seeking control over the American Memorial Park, dismissing claims the move will contribute to the further depletion of local coffers.

Tenorio said the Commonwealth government currently appropriates \$140,000 in annual funding for the maintenance, as well as improvement of the American Memorial Park.

This amount, according to the governor, is exclusive of the interest earned by the \$3 million which the CNMI received from the federal government under the 1976 Covenant.

Provision in the Covenant guarantees the Commonwealth government can utilize the interests that may be earned by the \$3 million federal grant. However, the CNMI is not permitted to use the principal amount.

Tenorio explained that Senate Bill 11-126 does not outrightly propose CNMI's takeover of the American Memorial Park but to give the Commonwealth governor the authority to

request for local administration of the park.

"There's nothing wrong with the bill. It just gives the CNMI chief executive an authority to ask the US Department of the Interior to transfer the administration of the park to the CNMI government," he pointed out.

He also said the CNMI does not currently receive any federal money for the park but said its employees are under the National Park Service of the US Department of the Interior.

"...although some [employees] may be subsidized by the \$140,000 we put out for the park every year," he said, while adding that American Memorial Park site manager Chuck Sayon is under the federal payroll.

Under the proposed measure, all improvements will be transferred to local authorities, who will then be responsible for the full cost of development, administration and maintenance of the park.

SB 11-126 or the American Memorial Park Transfer Act of 1999 has been transmitted to the House committee on natural resources before it heads to the floor for voting.

Froilan says aligning with GOP good for NMI

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety Associate Editor

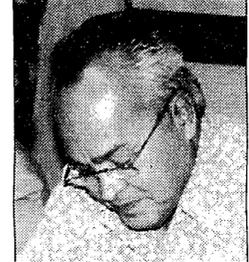
FORMER Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio yesterday defended his decision to align the CNMI with conservative US Republicans in Congress, saying that it was crucial for maintaining local control over immigration and minimum wage policies.

"The trouble with the [current CNMI leadership] is that they're never close with anyone in Washington, D.C. I, at least, managed to have very successful relations with the majority party in Congress," Tenorio said.

He added that this "closeness" with the US Republican Party will be good for the CNMI if the GOP wins the presidential elections in 2000.

"And right now, it looks like the Republicans will be back in the White House," the former governor said.

He said his critics "should understand" that while the Democrats are currently "in charge" of the White House, the Republi-



Froilan C. Tenorio

cans control Congress.

"So we had to deal with both parties, and that was what I tried when I hired lobbyists for the White House and [the Seattle-based law firm] Preston Gates for Congress," Tenorio said.

"That's how things work in Washington, D.C. And I learned that when I was the [CNMI's representative to the nation's capital from 1984 to 1990]," he said.

However, he added, the

Democratic lobbyists his administration hired "weren't helping."

In contrast, his administration had better relations with congressional Republicans, Tenorio said.

Still, he added, if aligning with US Republicans did turn the CNMI into a partisan issue in Washington, D.C. "then what is [the current CNMI leadership] doing about it?"

Tenorio said he finds it "amusing" that CNMI Republicans are not happy with his administration's cooperating with national Republicans.

During the last two years of Tenorio's administration, the White House, for the first time in CNMI history, came out in support of a "federal takeover" of local immigration and minimum wage policies.

At the same time, such key US Republicans as House Majority Leader Dick Army and House Majority Whip Tom DeLay vowed to block any such legislation, which is supported by congressional Democrats.

Court orders land sale

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

THE SUPERIOR Court has ordered the immediate sale of land belonging to a former government employee who was required to pay \$135,000 in restitution to the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation for embezzlement.

Judge Juan T. Lizama asked the CNMI government to coordinate with the Department of Public Safety for the auction of 2,030 square meters of land owned by Joaquin S. Quitugua.

Lizama told the government and DPS to sell the land within six months and submit to court the auction result.

Quitugua, a former administrative officer III for the CUC in Rota, was charged with 20 counts for alleged embezzlement of CUC funds.

He signed an agreement with the government and pleaded guilty of theft by failure to make required disposition, theft, embezzlement, and forgery. The remaining charges were dismissed.

In 1997 the court sentenced the defendant to 20 years' imprisonment, all suspended except two years without early release or parole.

Quitugua was placed in 18 years' active probation and was required to pay restitution to CUC. He agreed to sell his land to pay the restitution.

At the June 3 review hearing, the court found out that Quitugua has executed a warranty deed of his land on behalf of the CNMI government for

payment of the restitution.

Lizama, however, said there is no record showing that the CNMI government has sold (auctioned) the property.

According to court documents, on and between Oct. 1, 1990 and April 30, 1994, CUC. He agreed to sell his land to pay the restitution.

On the same dates, the defendant unlawfully took \$17,600 from cash receipts collected

from septic tank pump services at CUC.

Records indicated that on May 10, 1994 Quitugua stole \$2,000 from the Rota Power Plant Emergency Fund belonging to the CUC Rota Office.

Documents said that on Sept. 13, 1995 "defendant with the intent to defraud CUC authenticated a writing he knew to be false by submitting for reimbursement totaling \$1,400 from the BP Hotel knowing the original invoices had already been paid by CUC."

Jones eyes initiative to free up use of public land lease money

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

REPRESENTATIVE Dino M. Jones (D-Prec. 4, Saipan) is pushing for a popular initiative that will authorize the Division of Public Lands (DPL) to use part of money generated from leases to health insurance plans for the indigenous populace.

In an interview, Jones said he has introduced the measure before the House of Representatives more than a month ago.

"But I have not seen action from the House since so I am taking it up to the people because I think it is very important," said Jones.

According to Jones, residents of Northern Marianas descent can avail of the health insurance plan should it be pushed through under a popular initiative.

"I'm working on the popular initiative to authorize DPL to get money and provide health insurance to the indigenous



Dino M. Jones

people," said Jones.

"The Constitution does not permit DPL to utilize money for the purpose. We are doing a constitutional change to do a popular initiative to authorize DPL to get interest of money from public land lease and used that to buy health insurance for the indigenous people," said Jones.

Jones said he is pushing for

the measure noting that a number of indigenous residents have died of diseases which would not have been the case had they had the financial capability to afford treatment.

"I am concerned about the indigenous people's health condition. There is a lot of people getting sick and have died because of diabetes, heart attack and money was always important to take care of them, particularly those who can not financially afford it.

"Therefore, since there is money for the indigenous people from public lands, I believe it should be spent also for the health of the indigenous people," explained Jones.

Jones added his measure is part of efforts to contain possible health problems arising from a synthetic cancer-causing chemical that has leaked from an abandoned World War II capacitor in Tanapag.

Manglona seeks to exempt current scholars from cap

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety Associate Editor

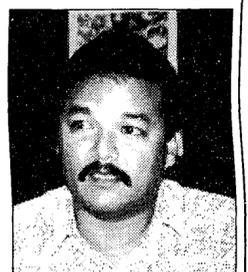
SENATE President Paul A. Manglona (R-Rota) yesterday said he will offer legislation that would specifically exempt current recipients of government scholarship grants from the \$15,000 cap.

Manglona was reacting to an opinion from the Attorney General's Office which said that the cap imposed by Public Law 11-77 will apply to all recipients.

"As I've said before, that's not the intent of the law—students who are getting [more than \$15,000] before the cap was enacted should not be affected," he said.

"But if AGO believes that we did not make that intent clear enough, then we need to do something to make sure the students continue to get what they were supposed to get," Manglona said.

He added that legislators "don't want any student to drop



Paul A. Manglona

out" because of an oversight in drafting the bill that became P.L. 11-77.

"Whatever it takes, we will correct whatever oversight there was."

Manglona said he is already getting a lot of phone calls from CNMI students enrolled in the continental US.

Manglona earlier told the Scholarship Office that the cap should not apply to students who



The CNMI delegation to the Academic Challenge to be held in Florida from June 12 to 15. Shown in photo are (from left) PSS Associate Commissioner Rita Sablan, Academic Challenge Coordinator Cathy P. Salas, Estelle Hofschneider, Marsha Gullian, Peggy Norman, Joseph Enteria, Ji Hyun Park, Jai Wug Kim, Bradley Matsumoto, Coach Bob Lee and Education Commissioner Rita H. Inos. Photo by Maria C. Alonso

Lizama recuses from 'malpractice' lawsuit

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

SUPERIOR Court Associate Judge Juan T. Lizama has disqualified himself from presiding over a malpractice lawsuit filed by the special administrator for Larry Hillblom estate against a California and Guam-based law firms representing the estate executor Bank of Saipan.

Lizama said after a review of the case file, he must recuse himself from handling Special Administrator Diego Mendiola's civil action against Morrison and Foerster (MoFo) law firm based in California and Calvo and Clark law firm in Guam.

Lizama in his order explained that his son-in-law, Atty. Leroy

Nelson, is involved in the estate of Hillblom.

The judge returned the case to Superior Court Presiding Judge Edward Manibusan for reassignment of the matter to another judge.

The Variety gathered that following Lizama's recusal, Manibusan referred the case to Associate Judge John A. Lizama. Mendiola, through counsel Jose Atao Bermudes, named as defendants MoFo and one of its lawyers Kathleen Fisher, and Calvo and Clark law firm and its attorney Rodney J. Jacob.

Mendiola also included in the suit Bank of Saipan in its corporate capacity and executor of

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Fish catch rises in number in NMI

By Rene P. Acosta
Variety News Staff

LANDINGS of pelagic fish in the Northern Mariana Islands have made a big increase last year compared to the number of catch made in 1997, according to an official of the local fish and wildlife.

With the increase number, Floyd Masga, who is the NMI's fishery data manager, said it is either that the people of the islands are fishing more or catching more.

According to Masga, the catch for pelagic fish has totaled to about 192,568 pounds last year with a commercial value of

\$398,000, while it is only about 174,915 pounds in 1997.

For the skipjack alone which is the dominating species of all the pelagic types, it has rose to about 25 percent. Other Pelagic fishes are yellow fin tuna and mahi-mahi.

Masga in his 1998 report on the over all catch of the NMI to the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council based in Hawaii where the island is a member, placed the landing at 418,797 pounds with a value of \$1,011,610.

The report covered all fish types whether they are classified as pelagic, bottom, or reef fishes.

Relay For Life rally to help cancer victims

By Loule C. Alonso
Variety News Staff

THE PRESENCE unit of the American Cancer Society in the Commonwealth will hold a Relay for Life kick-off rally at the Pacific Islands Club, Susupe on June 11 from 5pm to 7 pm.

The purpose of the kick-off rally, according to head coordinator Carmen Gaskins, is to recruit Saipan volunteers to serve in the committee for the 14-hour Relay for Life major event in August.

Other members of the presence unit are Josephine Sablan Hall, Susan Schwartz, Dr. Jack Hardy, Christine Kapileo, Susan Zehr, Frances H. Diaz, and Ermelinda King.

The rally will give encouragement and hope for the cancer survivors and pay tribute in memory of those who passed away.

"We will raise funds to help research, so that more awareness will be brought into this community," Gaskins said in an interview.

According to Gaskins, Relay for Life is a unique activity that offers an opportunity to participate in the fight against cancer, and it is about a community that takes up the fight against the dreaded disease.

Relay for Life, she said, is about empowering individuals to fight back against a disease that has taken so much from them.

If the presence unit could raise some money, 40 percent of the those will be given to the American Cancer Society for research, 10 percent will go to the Pacific Region's technical assistance and the 50 percent will remain in the CNMI to help support programs and patient assistance services.

Gaskins has been a volunteer for the American Cancer Society in the past 35 years.

"My mother died of cancer 23 years ago and I made a commitment to them that percentage of my salary and my time will be devoted to the Society. I do not

Continued on page 22

Region's aviation officials to meet in Koror in July

For the Variety
KOROR (Palau Horizon) — Palau will be hosting the "Pacific Aviation Directors Meeting" to be held on July 9-12 in Koror with this year's theme focused on the aviation on the next millennium.

According to Commerce and Trade Minister Okada Tachitong, Palau is expecting 60-70 aviation personnel from the United States, Hawaii and the whole Micronesia region.

Tachitong said the country has also requested the attendance of representatives from Continental Micronesia, Far East Air Transportation (FAT), and Japan Airlines. He added that it is the first time to invite members from these airlines.

The minister said the agenda would delve on a lot of different aviation projects around the Micronesia region. "There will be some talks about search and rescue," he added.

Tachitong added the meeting will tackle aviation and airport overview on the different islands.

(EILEEN O. TABARANZA)

Underwood wants 'typhoon chasers'

Variety News Staff
HAGATNA — Congressman Robert Underwood is working to have an Air Force Weather Reconnaissance Squadron assigned to Guam.



Robert Underwood

Underwood said Guam and the CNMI are the only two American areas that are not covered by weather reconnaissance provided by American aircraft.

"So we hope to profit from that by having a weather reconnaissance unit, also called Typhoon Chasers, assigned to Guam," the congressman said.

He added that this proposal is viable because the Air Force is currently stuck with additional C-130s that it doesn't want.

"One of the contentious issues in the Armed Services Committee where I sit is the issue of the C-130s. The Air Force just asks for a limited number of C-130s but the manufacturers always want to build more. Of course, the districts where the C-130s are built always get their way. So the Air Force is always looking at ways to maximize their C-130s," the congressman said.

Coastal Patrol boats.

"The reason for this is that carrier task groups are finite in number and they are spread out all over the world," Underwood said. "Also, Guam faces a lot of competition. Singapore is building a berth big enough for an aircraft carrier at their own expense just on the hope that U.S. aircraft carriers will visit them. So that's the level of competition we face," he added.

According to Underwood, minesweepers in the mainland may be assigned on Guam because the Navy has made a decision to deploy minesweepers around the world.

"All these projects, I hope, will yield benefit to Guam and further maintain and protect American interests in the region," Underwood said.

Through military construction contracts, ship repair work, procurement contracts for supplies, liberty visits, regional multilateral military exercises, and DoD payroll, Underwood said Guam can enjoy the economic benefits of a stronger military presence on island.

Former Guam education official convicted

By Eric F. Say
Variety News Staff

HAGATNA—A former Department of Education administrator may spend a minimum of 20 years in jail after she was found guilty of theft and forgery.

Norma Jean Taitano began sobbing softly when a jury of her

peers read guilty verdicts in Steven Unpingco's courtroom late Tuesday evening.

The former head of Guam's Secondary Public Schools Division Interscholastic Sports Program was convicted of embezzling over \$100,000 over many years.

The jury returned guilty verdicts on four counts of theft of property held in trust, forgery and two counts of official misconduct.

According to Superior Court spokesperson Mercy Hernandez, Taitano faces a minimum of 20

Continued on page 22



Marianas Variety Publisher and Younis Art Studio President Abed E. Younis (right) hands over a certificate to Melvin Villarain of YAS-MV's Production Department for being chosen as Employee of the Month for April.

Guam movie snagged again

Variety News Staff
HAGATNA — The Controversial "Guam Goes To The Moon" movie project, which has been plagued with production problems, is again facing another obstacle.

According to Variety magazine, director Ron Underwood has quit the movie project after Paramount Pictures failed to commit to a launch date for the movie.

Underwood, the director of Mighty Joe Young, had hoped to

direct Vince Vaughn in the lead role of an astronaut who tries to help a Third World country mount a manned space mission.

According to Variety, Underwood has opted instead to concentrate on another intergalactic comedy, Castle Rock's "Pluto Nash" starring Eddie Murphy and possibly Jennifer Lopez in a film about a futuristic gangster set on the moon.

The movie nearly stopped production altogether before Vince Vaughn and Jon Favreau, last seen together as L.A. night owls on the prowl in "Swingers," agreed to re-team in the movie with Vaughn in a starring role and Favreau as the scriptwriter.

Guam Goes To The Moon is an offbeat comedy, which centers on "a tiny U.S. commonwealth's fictional attempt" to launch a manned space program.

In its earlier incarnation, the Paramount project focused on a retired astronaut who missed out

on his one chance to go to the moon and is hired by an entrepreneur who hopes to bring honor to Guam by launching a lunar shot.

The original project was to star Bill Pullman (of Independence Day fame) and comedian Daniel Stern who was also supposed to direct. David Diamond and David Weisman were the screenwriters while Mark Gordon and Gary Levinson would produce.

The original production was set to start July of last year with shooting taking place both in Los Angeles and Hawaii. Originally, comedy giant Steve Martin was also supposed to be involved.

Vaughn most recently starred in "Psycho," "Clay Pigeons" and "Return to Paradise" while Favreau, who wrote and starred in "Swingers," also has appeared in "Very Bad Things" and in "Deep Impact" as an astronaut.

According to Variety, the producers of Guam Goes To The Moon are working to land a new director to continue the movie's development process.

PSS gets PREL help on teaching standards

By Loule C. Alonso
Variety News Staff

AN OFFICIAL from the Pacific Resources for Education and Learning (PREL) yesterday facilitated a seminar which would help the Public School System's principals and staff in developing a standard-based teaching and learning for the CNMI.

The seminar was held at the Pacific Gardenia's Conference Room yesterday with PREL's Juan Flores, the organization's program specialist.

The staff of PSS who attended yesterday's conference are those who will develop the Social Studies Standards for the CNMI.

According to Flores, the main idea behind the standard-based teaching and learning "is the community will decide what the kids need to know and what they should be able to do and care about."

"And based on those standards, all of the teachings and all of the assessment of the kids should be directed (to that standard). Not what is in the textbook, not what the teachers projects are but what the community said is important."

"If the community said it is important for the students to know the difference between the

right and wrong, that's what they should be teaching. And if the community said that students should understand the geography of the Pacific, that's what PSS should be teaching," Flores said in an interview.

According to the program specialist, there is no education reform without the parents' support.

"In order for this to work, the teachers, principals and the PSS people need to reach out to the parents to get support. They have to teach the parents what is the standard-based teaching and learning. They might also ask the parents on what they think on the standards," Flores said.

Teachers, Flores said, need to be supported and they also must know what are the expectations of the community from them.

He pointed out that if the education agency want the students to be sensitive in the multicultural community, what is the school doing will help the kids to be that way.

The principals, according to Flores, have to support what goes in the classroom and make sure that teachers have time and support to carry on the standard-based teaching and learning.

Philippine gov't designates new consul general to Palau

By MALOU L. SAYSON
For the Variety
KOROR (Palau Horizon) — The Philippine government has recently appointed a veteran lawyer and long-time foreign service official Antonio S. Curameng as the Philippine's new consul general to the Republic of Palau.

In an interview, Curameng said, "there is only one mission I have to project the needs of the Philippines and promote the welfare of Filipino workers here."

Curameng further stated, "I want to make overseas Filipinos (OFs) find ways to express and transform their nationalistic sentiments into concrete realities which can form part of the Filipino heritage."

Curameng strongly believes in the OFs, their resiliency and their strong determination to work hard for their families and their country.

"These [OFs] are the new heroes," he told Palau Horizon. In times of financial crisis brought about by the Asian economic slump, the OFs numbering about 5 million worldwide, according to

Curameng, have helped the Philippine economy stay afloat.

"This is the very reason why the [Philippine] government is doing every possible assistance to all Filipinos working abroad," he said.

In the field of labor, the Filipinos have earned the reputation of skillful, honest, cheerful and loyal workers.

"I never run out of faith in the Filipinos," he said. Just give them respect, and they'll give back their respect to you," Curameng noted, adding that it is not difficult to bring out the best in the Filipinos.

Curameng said the Philippine government is putting in place a full ambassadorship to the Republic of Palau to assure all OFs of some sense of security.

"If I find them in distress, I see to it they're protected," he said.

It would be noted that Filipinos working on Palau have grown in number, totaling to 3,650 contract workers plus 80 dependents.

Curameng, who hailed from Pangasinan in northern Luzon, the native province of former President Fidel V. Ramos, was last assigned to Abuja, Nigeria wherein the services of the Philippine Embassy there cover 20 countries.

Prior to his assignment in Nigeria, Curameng served as second secretary, consul, executive officer and a number of times as charge d' affaires in Rabat, Morocco where he stayed for five-and-a-half years.

He served as director of the Office of Middle East and African Affairs.

He was also charge d' affaires of the Philippine Embassy in Kuwait and was responsible in opening a diplomatic establishment in Kuwait on Jan. 6, 1980.

Curameng earned his Bachelor of Laws degree at San Beda College, one of the top law schools in Manila. He took his Foreign Service Post Graduate at the Oxford University, and a Master in National Security Administration at the National Defense College of the Philippines.

Curameng has been impressed by the natural beauty of Palau the first time he stepped on this island.

"This is entirely a different environment. "This is exactly the kind of post I'd like to work in," he said.

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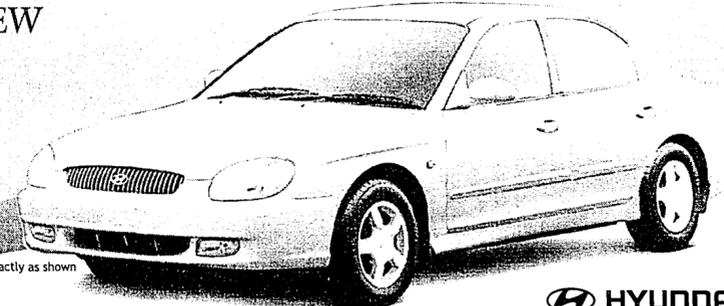
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DFW eyes marine sanctuary on isles

By Rene P. Acosta
Variety News Staff

FISH and Wildlife officials are now working on the development of two marine sanctuaries in the Northern Mariana Islands which will be used as breeding grounds for fisheries and other types of marine species.

Technical experts from the office have begun laying the ground work for the project site in Managaha, as they have already completed the study on the designated spot on Tinian which is located at Gurguan point stretching all the way down to Carolinas point.

Jacinto Taman, a fisheries specialist said the government is still toying with the idea of whether to put up one in the island of Rota.

Taman, along with a biologist and two fisheries technicians are going to dive today at the site of the proposed sanctuary—located near the tip of the recreational island—to start initiating the project.

The team would dive to measure its depth, identify the kinds of fisheries that are present including other types of marine species, and determine the figure of its sea bed.

Although the process is tedious, he said such activity has already been carried out in Tinian about two months ago.

The Department of Environmental Quality has already done its task of conducting underwater assessment and study of the designated site.

The sanctuaries, when put in

place would become the nesting place and safe havens for fisheries and other species to attain their sizes and reproduce without being subjected to the threat of being fished out by fishermen.

Such projects have been coordinated by an impending bill from Rep. Heinz Hofschneider who wanted to preserve a portion of the Managaha waters as a marine haven.

Although, he was expecting opposition from the tourism business sector, Hofschneider said the reef sanctuary will revitalize the designated area and bring back marine species including the sea cucumber which have trickled down in its number due to various tourism-related activities.

APIL founder seeks to strengthen PIDB

By MALOU L. SAYSON
KOROR (Palau Horizon) — One of the founders of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures (APIL) has urged member countries to re-examine the merits of funding the fledgling Pacific Islands Development Bank (PIDB), having only three member states with complete payment of the \$1 million authorized capital contributions.



Santos Olikong

In an interview, Senate Committee Chairman on Judiciary and Governmental Affairs Santos Olikong, who is also an exponent of the PIDB, said the bank is short of \$2,923,216.81 to reach a level of full capitalization from a total of seven member states.

Only Yap, Palau and Pohnpei have given a full capital contribution of \$1 million each plus staggered contributions from the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas with \$525,000; Chuuk, \$251,783.19; Guam, \$100,000; and Kosrae, \$200,000 or a total of \$4,076,783.19.

Yap was the pioneer in terms of contributions to the bank, meeting its full commitment first and carrying the rest of the members through the first few troubled years of its operations.

As per agreed upon, members are required to make an initial contribution of \$100,000 to be followed by an additional \$250,000 six months later; while the balance of the \$1 million full capitalization was to be paid in no later than one year after the initial contribution.

In the March 5, 1999 report submitted by the PIDB Board of Governors, it was noted that "even though there are lot yet to be done before the bank is declared "fully organized, it will enter its 10th year on July 5, 1999 with focus and a clear sense of direction."

The performance of the bank, however, has not met the expectations of its founders, according to an executive summary released recently.

It would be noted that in May 1987, the APIL unanimously passed a resolution (EC-6-3) on Saipan to conduct a study on the feasibility of developing a central development bank to service the APIL region. The resolution was certified by then APIL President Olikong.

The study prepared by Washington D.C. attorney Arnold Leibowitz and Tosiwo Nakamura, the first president of the Federated States of Micronesia was completed in 1988.

Due to inadequate capitalization and partly to programmatic limitations, plus the losses the bank has incurred since its inception, according

to the PIDB Strategic Plan prepared by Joseph Bradley and endorsed recently by the APIL Board of Directors, [it] was reluctant to initiate loans. It was not until mid-1993 that the PIDB made its first loan from the National Development Bank of Palau (NDBP) and purchased three additional loans in Yap, three in Chuuk, and one in Pohnpei, all from the Federated States of Micronesia Development Bank.

The Bradley study noted that projects funded by the PIDB through its purchase of loans from the various national development banks were found to "have not promoted economic development on scale envisioned by the APIL."

According to the study, most project funding has been for the construction of rental properties and retail establishments which marginally contribute to true economic development, except projects on Yap and Chuuk. One loan on Yap went to the establishment of a computer service company and another to the expansion of a taxi service company; while two loans on Chuuk went to establish automobile repair shops and two to set up gas stations.

Bradley in his report underscored the prevailing resistance to the concept of a regional development bank and the funding of its operations as well.

It was concluded that part of resistance was due to a lack of understanding of the PIDB's mission and the potential for improved economic development through cooperation.

The study further noted of the "undercurrent of uncertainty about the motives and commitment" of the members which has led to less than complete trust more within the governments that support them.

Historical rivalries among the islands has also been pinpointed as a third element of resistance, considering the distances between islands which provide natural barriers thus making the concept regionalism very difficult for some to adopt.

AROUND the Islands

DES honors its teachers

The Around the Islands section covers community stories, local events, and cultural activities. Should you have a story you would like to share, or an event that needs to be covered, contact Laila at 234-6341

By Louie C. Alonso
Variety News Staff

STUDENTS of Dandan Elementary yesterday honored its 23 teachers for giving them the best possible education despite the problems being faced by the Public School System in school year 1998-1999.

According to Principal Frances Taimanao, the Teachers Appreciation Day yesterday originated in San Vicente Elementary School and was just adapted by the new school.

"This is actually a day where we usually give thanks to the teachers for doing all the good job throughout the school year. Here, students themselves were the ones who prepared the ceremony and their speech. The students program was (prepared) to show the teachers that their hardwork is being appreciated," Taimanao said.

During the program, DES student Marjorie Q. Villagomez told the teachers they are very impor-

tant people in the students' lives.

"Teachers are people who devote their skills, time, and knowledge in helping us to learn. They tell us to believe in school, to make our life more enjoyable, wonderful, and memorable," Villagomez said during the program.

According to Villagomez, DES teachers have taught the students the things that they need to know in order to achieve their respective dreams and goals.

"Teachers are like our second mothers and fathers. They said that if you want to be an important, or a better person in life, you should finish your school or education because it is the greatest gift of all," she added.

Sixth grader Francisco Flores thanked the teachers for their help in encouraging the students to learn.

"I come to school to learn how to read, write and spell," he said. "I also come to school to learn how to add, subtract, multiply and divide. Thanks to you teachers, now we

Continued on page 22



Students of Dandan Elementary School gather for an Appreciation Program for their teachers yesterday. Photo by Maria C. Alonso

Westpac to close catch reporting loopholes to protect birds, reefs

THE WESTERN Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council is expected to close catch reporting loopholes by vessels taking tuna, billfish and other pelagic fishes in waters under its jurisdiction when it convenes in Honolulu next week.

Longline, precious corals and coral reef ecosystem fisheries management issues are also to be addressed with the possibility of action being taken. The council manages fisheries 3-200 miles offshore of Hawaii,

American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands and other U.S. islands in the Pacific.

Under current regulations, pelagic catches from Howland and Baker Islands, Jarvis Island, Johnston Atoll, Kingman Reef, Palmyra and Wake Island are reported by longline vessels only.

Catches by troll and handline vessels are not, despite recent increases in these fisheries around Palmyra and Kingman Reef.

The council is seeking a comprehensive catch data collection

system to enhance fisheries management development and to provide a historical basis for catch quotas that are expected to be set for skipjack, yellowfin, bigeye and South Pacific albacore tunas in the near future. An international tuna commission being formulated by the Multi-level Conference on the Conservation and Management of Highly Migratory Fish Stocks in the Western and Pacific region has identified the allocations as its first priority.

Traditional dance fest set

THE MARIANAS Visitors Authority along with the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture would like to announce the 1st Annual Marianas Traditional Dance Festival to be presented on Saturday, June 12, from 10 am to 6 pm at the Kilili Beach Park.

This event features nine performing groups representing dances from the Chamorro and Carolinian Culture.

"The Marianas Traditional Dance Festival is a component

of the 1999 Visit the Marianas Campaign," said Perry J.P. Tenorio, managing director of MVA, he added. "The Taste of the Marianas' food festival that was held last month was also a major event with the '99 Visit the Marianas Calendar. These events were designed to attract the traveling public to the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas."

The event is open to the public and there will be food and drinks on sale.

Winners in NMC poetry contest

THIS WEEK the winners of the NMC Ninth Annual Poetry Awards were announced by Bill Bingham, Awards Advisor.

First Place winner is Airika Actouka for her poem "The Dreamer." Second Place went to Suaad Younis to her poem "In the Golden Sunlight." Actouka wins \$100 and Younis, \$75.

Among those who won awards for Honorable Mention are Amelia Newport for "Radiation," Jenny White for "Queen Among Queens,"

Roberto Santos for "Martyr," Heui Jeong Kim for "Train of Thought," and Gabe Asper for "The Gang". Donna Mendoza won an Honorable Mention award for "The Greatest Pain in Life" and Lucile T. Kaufer was given an award for her poem "The Rose."

A booklet of all the poems that received awards is available in the Student Lounge and the Student Cafeteria.

The booklet also contains a good number of Barry Wonenberg's student art contributions, including "The Martian Visitor" (the

cover) by Ramond Romolor, "Goddess of the Sun" by Michelle Weed, "Girl in Gold" by Wei Qi Zhang, "Lady in a Lotus" by Edwina Scinta, "Dolphins at Play" by Dorothy Roberto, "Bottle Flower" by Katrina Lizama, "Away I Fly" by Victoria Matagolai, "Fish in a Mirror" by Eleanor Agnon, and "Blue Roses" by Victoria Belecha.

Students submit their poems and their art contributions to Bill Bingham and Barry Wonenberg. Continued on page 22

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Power outage set today, tomorrow

THE COMMONWEALTH Utilities Corporation (CUC) must replace a single-phase line with a three-phase line from northeast of San Vicente Elementary School to the Standford Hotel turnoff.

Therefore, a power outage is scheduled for two days today Thursday, June 10, and tomorrow Friday, June 11 from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm on both days.

Also, to continue the upgrade of the distribution lines in Chalan Kanoa behind Mt. Carmel Cathedral, a power outage is scheduled for Feeder 3 also today, June 10, from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Customers along the road behind Mt. Carmel Cemetery will be affected.

SHRM meet today

THE SHRM monthly meeting on the topic of Wellness and the Workforce is today Thursday, June 10 at 11:30 at the Hyatt.

Members and others wishing to attend should call Rheta or Liz at 234-1234 or fax to 234-0182 for reservations.

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AROUND the Islands

The Around the Islands section covers community stories, local events, and cultural activities. Should you have a story you would like to share, or an event that needs to be covered, contact Laila at 234-6341

Winners in logo contest

THE MARIANA Animal Welfare Society will be awarding the winners of their logo drawing contest this Saturday, June 12 at the Thai House Restaurant at 12 noon followed by complimentary refreshments.

The students who have won 1st, 2nd and 3rd place will be awarded prizes from Pacific Islands Club Waterpark, La Fiesta Game Room Tokens, and rides on the Submarine.

The winners are Bruce Laniyo (1st place); Carrie Delos Reyes (2nd place); and Audrea Agulto Flores (3rd

Continued on page 22

Six Saipan students all set to compete in Florida challenge

By Louie C. Alonso
Variety News Staff

SIX CNMI high school students will leave today to compete in the prestigious National Academic Challenge which will be held at the Walt Disney Convention in Florida from June 12 to 15.

Members of this year's CNMI team are Ji Hyun Park and Joseph Enteria of Grace Christian Academy; Jai Wug Kim and Estelle Hofschneider from

Marianas Baptist Academy; Bradley Matsumoto of Mount Carmel School; and Peggy Norman of Calvary Christian Academy.

Some of the members in this year's CNMI have already participated in last year's challenge.

The CNMI team is expected to return to Saipan on the 17th.

Last Tuesday, Education Commissioner Rita H. Inos and Public School System's Associate Commissioner Rita Sablan met with the whole team including Coach

Bob Lee, Asst. Coach Marsha Gulfan and CNMI Academic Challenge Coordinator Cathy Pangelinan-Salas.

Gulfan used to be the coach of the CNMI team for the past two years.

"We are counting on you," Inos told the CNMI team yesterday.

Last year, the CNMI team were able to land in first and second place in some rounds but was eliminated in the semi-final round.

"I hope you could bring-in a

medal for the CNMI this time," Sablan said yesterday.

According to team coach Bob Lee, they are trying their best to do good in the competition so the American people could see something positive happening in the CNMI this time.

The team was chosen after a series of competition for the local Academic Challenge which was held at the Joeten Kiyu Library early this year.

Continued on page 22

Deadline for EQIP

THE DEADLINE for applicants to sign-up for the United States Department of Agriculture-Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA/NRCS), 1996 Farm Bill, Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), is on Friday, June 11.

This program provides cost share dollars, through the Commodity Credit Corporation, to address major resource concerns and priorities identified as problems through local working groups.

There are two USDA/NRCS EQIP programs in the CNMI, for which, applicants can sign up for. These are the Kagman Irrigation Project (KEP), designed to provide efficient agricultural irrigation systems to farmers located in the Kagman watershed on Saipan; and for the islands of Saipan, Tinian and Rota, the proper control of animal waste through the collection, treatment, storage, and waste utilization for confined animal op-

Continued on page 22



After delivering a well-received commencement speech at the 1999 SDA School Graduation ceremonies, Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio joins his goddaughter, Jennifer Angello, Class Valedictorian, for a post graduation picture.

Armed Forces vets meeting

THIS IS to inform all members of the U.S. Armed Forces Veterans Association that there will be a meeting today, June 10 at the Division of Veteran's Affairs Office at 6:30 pm.

All members are requested to attend. Others interested in join-

ing are also invited to attend. Please bring a copy of your DD214 with you.

For more information, please contact Joseph C. Reyes, president at 234-5860/5871, or the Veterans Affairs Office at 288-1150.

Estrada airs request to S. Korea

Amnesty mulled for RP workers



Philippine President Joseph Estrada answers reporters' questions at the Shilla Hotel in Seoul Tuesday. Estrada has asked South Korea to grant amnesty to illegal Filipino workers there.

By KYONG-HWA SEOK
SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Philippine President Joseph Estrada said Tuesday he asked South Korea to grant amnesty to thousands of Philippine workers illegally staying in South Korea.

"The matter is under consideration by the South Korean government," Estrada told a news conference.

Estrada said he discussed the issue at a meeting with South Korean President Kim Dae-jung on Monday. Other topics included ways of expanding trade and economic cooperation, he said.

The issue of illegal foreign workers is a headache for South Korea, which has seen its own

once low unemployment rate skyrocket to 7.5 percent, with more than 1.5 million South Korean's out of work.

During its economic boom in the early 1990s, South Korea allowed low-paid foreigners, mostly from Southeast Asian countries, to be hired for mostly manual jobs shunned by its own people.

Government officials said about 170,000 foreign workers are believed to be staying in South Korea, 100,000 of them illegally.

Philippine workers are estimated at 12,000. Most of the illegal workers are from China (58,000), Bangladesh (9,000), Mongolia (9,000) and the Philippines (4,000). Many of them

lost their jobs last year amid a severe recession.

Most of the illegal workers entered South Korea with a tourist visa. Those who work under legal training programs get paid about 700,000 (\$583) to 800,000 (\$666) won per month. Illegal workers

are paid far less than that.

Many illegal workers couldn't afford to return home when they were laid off because employers didn't pay them. They also have to pay hundreds of dollars in penalties for overstaying their visas when they leave the nation.

If amnesty is granted, those illegal workers can leave the country without paying the penalties, the minimum of which is 300,000 won (\$250).

Estrada arrived in Seoul Sunday for a four-day visit. He returns home Wednesday.

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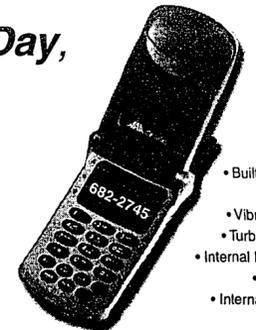


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Small business workshop, expos other activities

THE NORTHERN Marianas College Business Development Center (BDC) has organized a number of events for Small Business Development Month, as proclaimed by Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio last June 1st.

The CNMI community is encouraged to attend all of these free to the public events:

Friday, June 11
"Thinking About Starting Your Own Business" workshop
Registration: 8:30 - 9:00 am.
Program: 9:00 - 11:00 am.
NMC BDC Conference Room, Building T.
Tuesday, June 22
2nd Annual Business Expo-Rota, CNMI
Registration: 8:00 am, Expo: 9:00 - 4:00 pm, Training: 9:00 - 4:30 pm
Rota High School
Contact Felix Mendiola, NMC Rota Campus Admin., 532-9477
Thursday, June 24
2nd Annual Business Expo-Tinian, CNMI
Registration: 8:00 am, Expo: 9:00 - 4:00 pm, Training: 9:00 - 4:30 pm
Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino (Dynasty Club and Emperor Rooms)
Contact Herman Sablan, NMC Tinian Campus Admin., 433-0658
Monday, June 28
2nd Annual Business Expo-Saipan, CNMI
Registration: 8:00 am, Expo: 9:00 - 4:00 pm, Training: 9:00 - 4:30 pm
Saipan Multi-purpose Center
Contact Arlene Cabrera, Saipan Mayor's Office, 235-7340/7341
The 2nd Annual Business Expo will also feature:
• CNMI Business Exhibits and Booths that cater to entrepreneurs and established small

Continued on page 22

NO ONE DESERVES CANCER, SO BE SCREENED FOR IT.

New Fiji Gov't plans to fix health system

SUVA (Pacnews) — Fiji's new Health Minister Dr Isimeli Cokanasiga has tabled a Green Paper in Cabinet which calls for a major overhaul of the country's health system.

The Paper is titled "Health Improvement Programme", and among other things, calls for an increase in the budget of all outpatient departments, deployment of extra doctors and nurses, and the separation of the accident and emergency departments from the general outpatient departments.

The Ministry also plans to provide further training for medical staff, create new positions for medical consultants, equip and upgrade peripheral health facilities, explore the possibility of hiring off general outpatient to the private sector, and construct new

wards and operating theatres. Dr Cokanasiga promised Cabinet more doctors and nurses would be deployed in outpatient departments at health centres and hospitals in order to reduce the waiting time for people seeking medical attention.

According to the Paper, the lack of doctors and nurses, and the limited number of hospital beds and funds, among other things, are responsible for the long waiting periods at hospital and health centres.

Other areas covered in the Paper include emphasis on primary and preventative healthcare, addressing problems related to cigarette and Kava consumption, revision of public health and food legislation, improved access to mobile outreach health services, and healthy community lifestyles.

USP not taking in new enrollments

SUVA (Pacnews) — Suva-based University of the South Pacific (USP) says it will not take new students from next semester.

The Deputy Vice Chancellor, Doctor Rajesh Chandra told student newspaper, Wansolwara, the University Grants Committee (UGC) had requested USP to keep enrollments low and use the money to improve the quality of education.

For this triennium, USP receives four per cent from the Grants Committee.

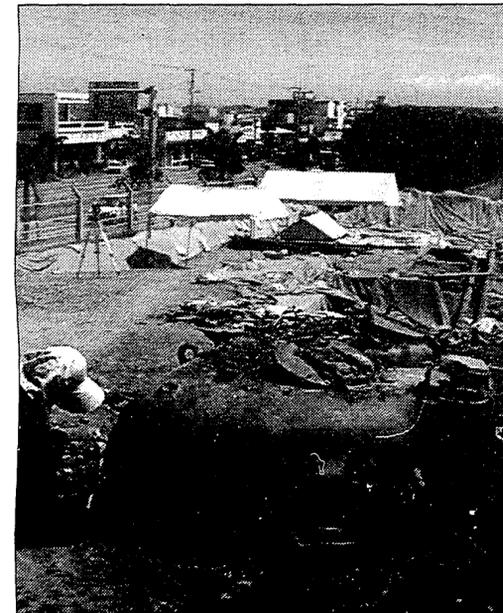
"Our enrollments have grown many years, around 14 per cent per annum and in 1999, our enrolment has grown by 13.4 per

cent and the Grants Committee is concerned with the high number of enrolments."

"The UGC is worried that we will be spending less and less money per student and therefore providing either fewer or poorer quality services," Doctor Chandra said.

He said USP would only take continuing students in the following semester so that they have a bit of breathing space.

"We are going to have an expert look at enrolment management for the University and then use this time to put in a new policy for year 2000 and onwards," said Doctor Chandra.



An excavation staff works on the part of a Sherman tank used by U.S. forces during World War II as it is unveiled to the press Tuesday by the Okinawa prefectural educational board at Isamebaru archeological site in Ginowan in Okinawa, southern Japan. The tank was identified as a 31-ton M4 Sherman, believed to have seen action in the Allied invasion of Okinawa, the crucial battle ground, in 1945.

Elsewhere in the Pacific \$5M ExIm Bank funding slips from Palau's NDBP

By MALOU L. SAYSON
For the Variety

KOROR (Palau Horizon) — A Senator has questioned the lackluster pursuit by government of an important international funding which will prop up the staggering financial status of the National Development Bank of Palau (NDBP).

Senator Santos Olikong, chairman of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Affairs told *Palau Horizon* that instead of pursuing the \$5 million funding support offered by the Export and Import Bank (EXIM Bank) of Japan, the country's finance officials rather turned to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) which asked for a \$700,000 membership fee from Palau.

According to Olikong, Palau has somehow created a good im-

pression with the EXIM Bank because of the "strong movement" in its economy and that the government of Palau gave its full capital contribution of \$1 million to the Pacific Island Development Bank (PIDB) established in 1989.

The formation of the regional development bank was but one among the three major objectives of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, said Olikong. The two others are the improvement of air transportation and facilitation of ocean transportation in the region.

Among the 11 eligible members of the PIDB, only seven are considered active, making a combined contribution of about \$4.077 million out of \$7 million total capital contribution or \$1 million from each of the seven members.

Olikong stressed the PIDB's

role as a regional conduit to access money markets of Japan, the United States and Europe.

Palau got the nod of the EXIM Bank, according to Olikong, since [it] unlike other PIDB member states, Palau has legal statutes in place and so far accomplished most of the paper requirements.

The funding from the EXIM Bank, Olikong said, was "not a one-shot deal."

"[It] was a line of credit with an initial disbursement of \$5 million," he said, adding that "it doesn't stop there."

Depending on the track record of the NDBP, including a good repayment capability, the EXIM Bank is willing to replenish the \$5 million with another doze of funding as long as the effect of the loan is good on the country's economy.

Clinton greets new Fiji PM

SUVA (Pacnews) — US President Bill Clinton has sent a congratulatory message to Fiji's new Prime Minister Mahendra Chaudhry.

President Clinton said the United States enjoyed warm and friendly relations with Fiji and looked forward to a similarly productive relationship.



Bill Clinton

He said the expansion of the bilateral trade relationship and the growing number of American tourists visiting Fiji are evidence of important links between the two countries.

Prime Minister Chaudhry in reply said his Government would continue to strengthen the existing bilateral trade arrangements with the US.

Tonga business leader hits budget

NUKU'ALOFA (Pacnews) — Tonga's Chamber of Commerce has criticized the new budget announced by Finance Minister Fakafanua, saying it does not contain any initiatives to deal with the country's worsening economic situation.

Business has been pushing for an across-the-board goods

and services tax and big cuts to the public service.

The chamber's president, Paul Karalus says the budget is a big disappointment and the chamber will be putting forward an alternative plan by the end of the month.

Throughout the budget statement there are things like "en-

couraging", "exploring", "promoting", "conducting", "considering".

There's very little in it of any actual, solid, substantive nature which would indicate any change. It's again a budget that talks of change, but this is no different from what we heard last year.

Fiji nurses demand better conditions

SUVA (Pacnews) — It's been revealed in Fiji that lack of rewards for nurses is one of the major reasons why they opt to migrate or leave for employment opportunities overseas.

Addressing a workshop on "Negotiation on Leadership", Fiji Nurses Association President, Alumita Bulicokocoko said nurses in Fiji are regarded the best in the world but worked under very poor conditions and low wages.

She said the workshop aimed to equip nurses with ideas that could help them negotiate with their superiors and concerned authorities, especially the Government.

Bulicokocoko appealed to the

Government of Prime Minister Mahendra Chaudhry to look into the matter and find practical solutions to stop the migration of nurses.

She said a number of leading organisations, including representatives of the World Health Organisation had praised the quality of nurses in Fiji.

Recently, the Director of Nursing, Rigieta Nadakuitavuki was seconded to review Cambodia's nursing system.

Her work has been recognised by the Commonwealth Steering Committee for Nursing and Midwifery.

This is the first time this appointment has been offered to

Cook Islands gov't dumps budget council

RARATONGA (Pacnews) — The Cook Islands Government has decided to dump the current membership of the National Development Council (NDC).

The Government decided that having an NDC, which the Government seeks advise and feedback from on the budget, was not a good idea.

The NDC, with members such as former Chamber of Commerce President Brett Porter and House of Ariki President Pa Te Ariki Upokotini, had opened up the budget discussions to the public.

Cook Islands Television reports NDC had disagreed with the Government over its spend-

Continued on page 20

Continued on page 20

RP nabs 27 Chinese fishermen

PUERTO PRINCESA, Philippines (AP) — A Philippine navy patrol arrested 27 Chinese fishermen in Philippine waters off the southern tip of the island of Palawan, the military said Tuesday.

The fishermen, said to be from Hong Kong, were apprehended Monday aboard 24 small boats that were fishing near Fearless Shoal off tiny Mangsee island near the Philippine border with Malaysia, said Lt. Cmdr. Rudolfo Magtira.

The shoal is about 870 kilometers (545 miles) southwest of Manila.

Magtira said the Chinese fishermen could be charged with illegal entry and illegal fishing since they had no permission to fish and were catching groupers, a protected species.

Magtira, skipper of the patrol ship Quezon which arrested the fishermen, said naval authorities could not communicate with the Chinese because no interpreter was immediately available.

The fishermen ranged in age from 20 to 58, according to identification booklets they were carrying.

They were taken to Puerto Princesa for a medical check up and will be turned over to the Provincial Committee on Illegal Entrants, Magtira said.

Foreigners caught fishing illegally in Philippine waters have been released in the past after spending time in jail while Philippine authorities worked out details for setting them free in response to requests from the foreign governments involved.

The arrest of the Chinese fishermen within Philippine territory could further irritate the uneasy ties between China and the Philippines caused by disputes over the Spratly islands and other South China Sea territories.

Last month, a Chinese fishing boat sank after a Philippine navy ship chased it away from Scarborough Shoal, which is claimed by both countries.

Philippine authorities said the boat accidentally collided in rough seas with the patrol ship.

However, Chinese officials quoted the Chinese fishermen as saying the boat was deliberately rammed by the naval vessel. Beijing has demanded compensation for the Chinese fishermen, but Manila refused.



Captured Chinese fishermen gather aboard a Philippine Navy boat Tuesday. Some 27 Chinese fishermen aboard small boats were apprehended by a Philippine Navy patrol Monday, due to illegal fishing in Philippine waters.

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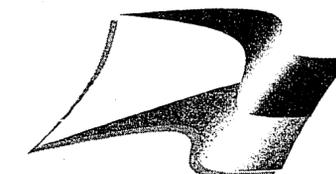
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To Manila

Kim fires justice minister

By SANG-HUN CHOE
SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — President Kim Dae-jung fired his justice minister Tuesday after a series of scandals tarnished the image of his 15-month-old government.

Kim Tae-jung, 57, who was named justice minister only two weeks ago, was sacked for "failing to guide and oversee prosecutors," said Kim Joong-kwon, chief of the presidential staff.

The dismissal came after newspapers reported that prosecutors fomented a workers strike last year to give them an excuse to crack down on the labor movement.

The president's office denied that the justice minister was involved in that affair, but said he

was held responsible for the actions of a senior prosecutor who told reporters of the scheme.

Even before the new charges emerged, President Kim had been under mounting public and opposition pressure to fire the justice minister in connection with the so-called "Mink Coat Scandal."

In that affair, the wives of the justice and other Cabinet ministers were accused of taking expensive clothes as bribes from the wife of a jailed businessman to spare him from arrest last year.

Last week, prosecutors cleared the wife of the justice minister of any wrongdoing. But the opposition and a number of newspapers called the

prosecution's investigation a whitewash.

The president dropped the ax on the justice minister after Jin Hyong-ku, a senior prosecutor in charge of public security, told reporters Monday night that prosecutors and managers of the government-run Korea Security Printing and Minting Corp. prompted an illegal strike by unionized workers last November.

Prosecutors needed a "show-piece" case to demonstrate their determination to break illegal strikes, which were seen as the biggest stumbling block to President Kim's efforts to reform bloated, inefficient government-funded corporations, Jin was quoted as saying.



Kim Dae-jung

Working together with prosecutors, managers of the mint announced they were planning large layoffs, Jin said. Workers quickly walked off their jobs, as

anticipated, and prosecutors sent in police to break the illegal strike.

Jin said the justice minister, then the prosecutor-general, knew of the scheme.

The president's office denied there was such a scheme and accused Jin of making a "slip of tongue while drunk and eager to promote his achievements as a top public security prosecutor." Jin also was fired.

Kim Jong-kil, 62, a former prosecutor now in private practice, was named the new justice minister.

The president's party lost two parliamentary by-elections last week in results that were widely seen as a sign of public disgust over the ethics scandal.



Chi Haotian (right), vice chairman of the Central Military Commission and also Chinese defense minister, shakes hands with Kim Il Chol, vice chairman of the National Defense Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and minister of North Korea's armed forces.

South Korea accuses North's navy ships of violating zone

By SANG-HUN CHOE
SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Six North Korean navy patrol boats crossed into a tense sea buffer zone Tuesday, creating an armed standoff off the coast of the divided Korean Peninsula, Defense Ministry officials said.

South Korea responded in kind, dispatching eight navy ships to the site 100 kilometers (62 miles) northwest of Seoul, the officials said.

No clash was reported. The North Korean boats crossed into the miles- (kilometers-) wide buffer zone between the territorial waters of the two Koreas on Tuesday and refused to heed South Korean warnings to leave.

"It's not uncommon for North Korean ships to violate the buffer zone by mistake. But it's highly unusual for them to reject our warnings," said a Defense Ministry official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The ministry was to issue a formal statement protesting what it considered a "grave violation" of the armistice that ended the 1950-53 Korean War, he said.

South Korean marines and navy soldiers went on alert on the islets near the border, the ministry officials said. Navy ships also cleared the waters around the standoff of South Korean fishing boats, they said.

The infiltration came two days after North Korea accused South

Korea on Sunday of sending warships into its territorial waters in the Yellow Sea, and warned of retaliation.

North Korea said its patrol boats chased off three South Korean warships from its waters Saturday. South Korea denied the North Korean claim.

The two Koreas often accuse each other of provoking military confrontations. The Korean peninsula was divided into communist North Korea and capitalist South Korea in 1945.

With no peace treaty signed at the end of the 1950-53 Korean War, the Koreas remain technically in a state of war. Their border is the world's most heavily guarded, with nearly 2 million troops on both sides.

Economic report:

'Asia on recovery path'

SINGAPORE (AP) — Most economies in the Asia-Pacific region are likely to improve in 1999, the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council said in a survey released Tuesday.

After much of Asia suffered severe economic declines in 1998, most countries are expected to post positive growth this year, said the forum that gathers high-level business, academic and government representatives from 23 nations in the Asia-Pacific region.

Average growth will reach 2.6 percent this year, according to PECC's Pacific Economic Outlook. And in 2000, the growth rate is forecast to rise to 2.9 percent.

The report is the latest in a string of surveys suggesting that the worst of the Asian financial crisis is over.

But the PECC report also warned of several factors that could upset the positive outlook.

One of them is the "uncertain direction" of the Japanese

economy, the report said.

Japan, with the world's second-largest economy, is likely to see zero growth in gross domestic product this year, before recording a 2.0 percent growth rate in 2000, the report said.

A stronger yen this year compared with 1998 will probably put downward pressure on Japanese companies' export potential, the report said.

Other laggards in the region include Indonesia, where the economy is expected to shrink by 2.5 percent this year.

But next year, Indonesia is forecast to achieve 3.7 percent growth in GDP — the measure of all goods and services produced in the country, the report said.

Indonesia's economic contraction was the steepest in the region, at 13 percent in 1998.

Among other adverse factors, the report said a devaluation of the Chinese yuan would unsettle other Asian countries, which would be forced to follow suit and

devalue their own currencies.

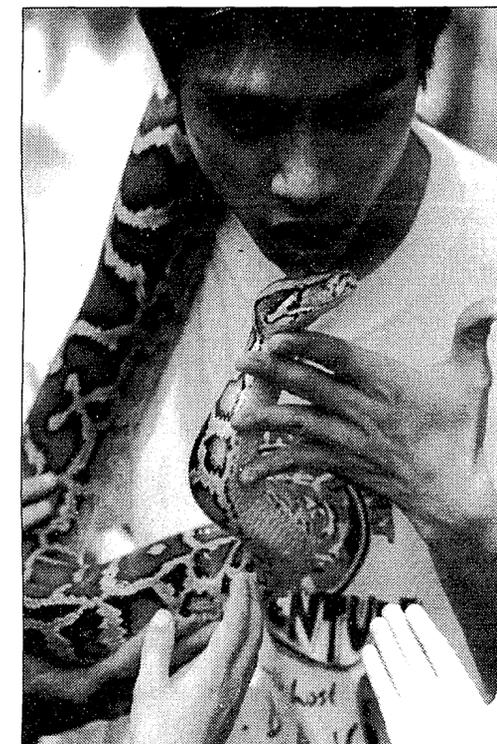
Rumors of a yuan devaluation surface every once in a while in the currency market, but are usually swiftly denied by the Chinese government. Tuesday's report notes that China maintains that it won't devalue.

In the United States, the report noted that a sharp fall in equity prices would render economic activity "significantly weaker" than currently forecast.

The report said the U.S. economy will probably grow by 3.5 percent in 1999 before slowing to a 1.6 percent growth rate in 2000.

With growth likely to slow, the U.S. Federal Reserve "will not raise interest rates immediately," the report predicted.

The report concluded that a three-engine growth model based on China, Japan and the United States suggests that if one of those economies slips into recession, it could seriously hurt growth prospects for the whole region.



Snake charmer Wayne Lim gives the python a kiss as kids reach out to touch it in Singapore Zoological Gardens Thursday.

GRANTS AVAILABLE

The NMI Council for the Humanities announces the 1999 grants cycle. Deadlines for submission of Regular Grant applications (\$2,000 and up) are: **March 31; June 30; and September 30, 1999.** Mini Grant applications (below \$2,000) and Planning Grant applications (up to \$1,500) may be submitted at any time but at least 30 days prior to the project start date.

The council invites applications from nonprofit organizations, educational institutions, government agencies, and ad hoc groups for grants to support public educational programs in humanities disciplines such as: history, language, archaeology, ethics, literature, art history and criticism, philosophy, comparative religion, linguistics, and jurisprudence. Program areas include: history and heritage; books and reading; community dialogue; teacher education; health and culture. Projects that focus on the history, culture, and heritage of the peoples of the CNMI are particularly encouraged. Projects that engage the general public in discussions, dialogue and critical analysis of the CNMI and U.S. public policy are also encouraged. Program formats vary, but might include:

- conferences, lectures, and discussions
- oral histories, field trips, and research
- radio and video productions
- exhibitions and publications
- interpretations of performances
- teacher seminars and in-service programs
- planning for future humanities projects

For application materials, call 235-4785 or write to: Executive Director, NMI Council for the Humanities, AAA 3394, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950. Or visit our web site at <nmi.humanities.org.mp>

PUBLIC NOTICE INVITATION TO BID

Pursuant to Title 6, Section 22 of the Saipan Municipal Code, the Office of the Mayor of Saipan hereby issues Notice of invitation to Bid for the operation of Bingo and Bato for the period of one (1) year commencing on July 4, 1999 to July 3, 2000.

The minimum bid for a Bingo License is \$1,000.00. The minimum bid for a Bato License is \$250.00.

All bids shall be accompanied by a deposit of twenty percent (20%) of the total amount bid. The deposit shall be in the form of a postal or express money order, cashier's or certified check or bank draft, payable to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Treasurer, Saipan, MP 96950. All bids must be sealed and submitted to the Office of the Mayor of Saipan on or before 3:30 p.m., June 21, 1999. No bid will be accepted after 3:30 p.m., June 21, 1999. All bids submitted on time will be publicly announced at 4:00 p.m., June 21, 1999 at the Office of the Mayor of Saipan at Afetna Square Building in San Antonio, Saipan, MP 96950.

For application forms and information, please come by or call the Mayor's Office at telephone numbers 234-6208 or 235-7304 between 7:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. and between 12:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

/s/ DAVID L. GITOL
Acting Mayor of Saipan
June 8, 1999

Cathay cancels more flights

HONG KONG (AP) — Cathay Pacific Airways canceled more than half its flights Tuesday as more pilots called in sick ahead of Friday's deadline for them to either accept a pay cut or lose their jobs.

Cathay bosses planned to meet again with the pilots union on Wednesday afternoon, but neither side would offer any hints about whether a solution was near.

The two sides met Saturday and reported no progress. The pilots say they will call a strike vote if anybody is fired in the dispute.

Cathay is demanding that air crew give pay concessions averaging 7 percent over two years in exchange for stock options. The airline is trying to cut costs

and reverse losses brought on by Asia's financial crisis and Hong Kong's recession.

In an open letter to passengers, the airline's 1,100 pilots said they recognize the economic difficulties faced by Cathay and were prepared to take significant salary cuts with the stock option offer.

But the airline has made proposals that gives the management the right to make unilateral changes to contracts with the pilots, the letter said.

"Our legal counsel advises that these contracts would not be acceptable internationally," the pilots said.

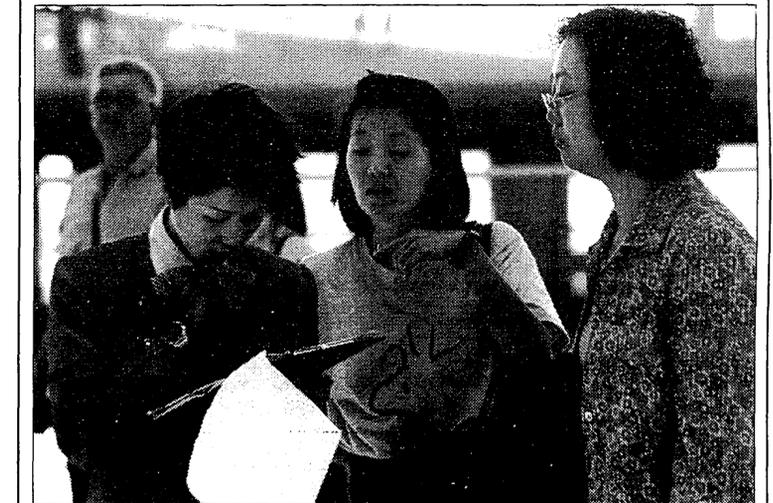
To gauge support for a strike, the Hong Kong Aircrew Officers Association asked its members to indicate to an independent legal

consultant whether they would accept Cathay's pay deal on the deadline, or whether they would continue to fight, the South China Morning Post reported Tuesday.

The lawyers will collect the information and forward it to Cathay bosses if a large majority indicate that they will not cave in, the Post quoted lawyer Michael Lintern-Smith as saying.

Cathay spokeswoman Quince Chong confirmed that the company has been informed of the survey, but declined any further comment.

Cathay had to cancel 67 of its 113 scheduled flights Tuesday, but it beefed up its schedule by hiring other airlines to operate 39 services on a charter basis.



Passengers ask a Cathay Airways airline clerk at Hong Kong's international airport. The airlines canceled more flights as a sickout by pilots continued with no end in sight.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) will be having its 2nd quarter meeting on June 18, 1999 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., at the Office of the Aging Conference room in Garapan. Interested individuals are welcomed to attend.

AGENDA

- I. Roll Call
- II. Adoption of May 7, 1999 Minutes of Meeting and Adoption of June 18, 1999 SRC Agenda
- III. Election of SRC Secretary and Vice-Chair
- IV. OVR Reports
 - State Plan Public Hearing
 - Status of OVR Organization
 - Staff Development
- V. Other Discussions
- VI. Next Quarterly Meeting
- VII. Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting, but requires accessibility such as large print or sign language interpreters must call 664-6537/6538 (voice) or 322-6449 (TDD).

/s/Ramon Dela Cruz
Chairman

Vote counting on in Indonesia

Megawati's party leads



Megawati Sukarnoputri (center), leader and presidential candidate of Indonesia Democratic Party for Struggle (PDI-P), is surrounded by a sea of security personnel, media people, and voters as she leaves a polling station after voting in Jakarta, Monday.

By THOMAS WAGNER
JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — A day after Indonesia's euphoric democratic vote, election officials were forced Tuesday to defend the painfully slow vote-counting process that had some politicians grumbling.

Before the parliamentary balloting, election officials had vowed to have 50 percent of the 116 million votes counted by Tuesday evening. But as night settled in, only about 1 percent had been tabulated.

In a country where elections since the only democratic vote 44 years ago have been rigged, it doesn't take much for rumors to start floating around. Election officials quickly tried to derail such concerns and blamed inexperience with a new system.

"The delay has nothing to do with political factors: it's purely the delay in the process of vote-counting at the village level," National Election Commission Chairman Rudini told reporters.

The treasurer of Megawati Sukarnoputri's Indonesian Democratic Party for Struggle, which was leading in the early results, said it was understandable that the counting would be prolonged, but that he was concerned.

"If it is taking so much time, I am afraid the momentum is gone and I am worried about some kind of manipulation," Laksamana Sukardi said.

Golkar Chairman Akbar Tanjung told a news conference that his party will ask the electoral commission to explain why the process was taking so long and to speed it up.

Golkar officials watching over the count have been able to collate 8 million ballots, he said, but official results were based only on 1.2 million votes.

Ballots in East Timor will be recounted Wednesday because of a complaint from the local election supervisor in Dili, the troubled territory's capital, because of possible discrepancies.

Results flashed regularly across the bottom of regular television programming. But as the day wore on, new information was meager.

The delays were starting to put a damper on the election euphoria. Foreign leaders had praised Indonesia for pulling off what election monitors said appeared to be a peaceful, fair vote despite scattered irregularities and intimidation.

Former President Suharto resigned in May 1998 amid bloody riots and pro-democracy protests. During his 32-year authoritarian regime, only three officially sanctioned parties were permitted. Suharto's Golkar Party rigged the vote and always won landslides.

As results began to trickle in, the opposition party of Megawati Sukarnoputri, daughter of Indonesia's founding president,

led the way. But beleaguered election officials said final, official results weren't expected until June 21.

In an interview with Pamy Hadi, editor-in-chief of the official Antara news agency, President B.J. Habibie predicted Tuesday that no party would win a majority in Parliament.

More than 96 percent of the registered voters cast ballots, said Jakob Tobing, head of the National Election Supervisory Committee.

"The turnout was very high because no one wanted to lose the right to vote," he told a news conference.

The success of the campaign and election not only bolstered the troubled financial markets of Indonesia and some of its neighbors, it persuaded the International Monetary Fund to approve a \$450 million loan for Indonesia on Monday. It was the fifth installment in a rescue package launched after the country became the worst victim of the 1997 Asian financial crisis.

The Jakarta stock index skyrocketed by more than 12 percent, and the rupiah currency continued its gains against the U.S. dollar. The Singaporean and Malaysian markets also enjoyed very good days, thanks to Indonesia.

The election "makes an enormous contribution to the long-term stability and security of our

region," Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer told reporters in Canberra.

Australian Prime Minister John Howard issued a statement offering congratulations for a "real celebration of democracy."

Japan and New Zealand also offered praise.

The country cast ballots for 48 political parties and more than 11,000 parliamentary candidates in the world's fourth most populous country and its largest Islamic one.

Up for grabs were 462 of Parliament's 500 seats. The rest go to appointees of the powerful military, which is not allowed to vote.

The legislators will join 200 government appointees to choose a new president in November. But, no party was expected to win a majority in Parliament, making coalition-building a necessity.

On Tuesday, with only about 1 percent of the ballots counted, the Indonesian Democratic Party for Struggle of Megawati, a presidential frontrunner, was leading

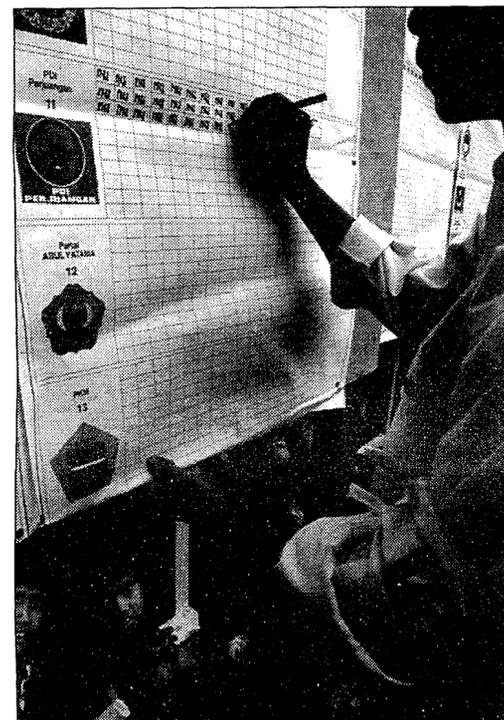
with 390,398 votes, according to the General Election Commission.

In second place was the National Awakening Party, led by ailing Abdurrahman Wahid, head of Indonesia's largest Islamic group, with 254,547 votes. The Golkar Party of Habibie, Suharto's former protege, came next with 126,952 votes.

Garnering 63,088 votes, the Muslim-based United Development Party ranked fourth, better than expected. And the pro-reform National Mandate Party of Muslim leader Amien Rais, an opposition presidential candidate, was fifth with 52,222 votes.

Golkar, which was tabulating its own results, said Megawati's party was outpolling it by a ratio of 5-to-3.

Despite their rebel insurgencies, voting also took place in the eastern province of Irian Jaya and the western area of Aceh. But militants who opposed the voting kept many Acehnese away from the polls and turned some areas into ghost towns.



Young neighbors of Indonesian presidential candidate Megawati Sukarnoputri look curiously as a poll worker tallies up another vote for PDI-P (Indonesian Democratic Party of Struggle) in south Jakarta Monday.

India offers peace talks

By HEMA SHUKLA
DRAS, India (AP) — India offered Tuesday to hold high-level peace talks with Pakistan this weekend, a move that came even as its warplanes and troops struck against the hundreds of fighters India says Pakistan has sent into the mountains of Kashmir.

A Foreign Ministry statement said Pakistan's foreign minister would be welcome on Saturday, countering a proposal by Islamabad for Sartaj Aziz to come to New Delhi on Monday, which India called "inconvenient."

India's Foreign Minister Jaswant Singh was due to leave for China on Sunday, leaving little time for discussions with his Pakistani counterpart.

In Islamabad, Pakistan's Information Minister Mushahid Hussein told the upper house of parliament of India's offer. He did not say if Pakistan would accept the date, the same day the government announces its budget for 1999-2000.

Meanwhile, fighting raged on the battlefield in the Himalayan mountains. Pakistani artillery shells thudded into Dras and Kargil, the two forward bases from where Indian commanders directed an offensive against what India claims are Pakistan army soldiers attempting to capture Indian territory.

Pakistan denies its troops are involved and says the fighters are secessionist Kashmiri rebels from India.

Shells hit a television tower in Dras and fell around the highway on which the Indian army was moving reinforcements and new equipment, including anti-aircraft guns and rocket launchers.

Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, in a televised



Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee greets supporters at a National Security Council meeting in New Delhi Tuesday. The meeting was organized by the government to discuss the Kashmir issue.

speech to the nation Monday, accused Pakistan of sending its soldiers across the cease-fire line "to occupy our territory" in Indian-held Kashmir.

Hussein, the Pakistani minister, dismissed India's allegations and said Vajpayee's speech was for "home consumption." Pakistan earlier accused India of going "on the warpath" by spurning its earlier offer of talks.

India and Pakistan have fought three wars, two of them over control of Kashmir, since they won independence from Britain in 1947. India controls two-thirds of Kashmir and Pakistan the remaining one-third.

Vajpayee made clear the talks would be confined to ending the confrontation on India's northern frontier and not other issues dividing the two rivals.

"The subject is one and one alone: the intrusion and how Pakistan proposes to undo it," Vajpayee said.

Western nations have asked the two new nuclear powers to show restraint, fearing the fighting may escalate into a full-scale war.

The induction of new weapons and 2,000 new soldiers to the battle zone appeared to be the prelude of an all-out assault by India to push the intruders off the snow-peaked mountains they have occupied since early May.

The army cancelled an escorted convoy of journalists from Srinagar, the summer capital of Kashmir, into the area.

In New Delhi, the National Security Council, a body of strate-

gic experts and defense officials met to discuss the latest fighting. No details of the meeting were available.

India's casualty toll stood at 60 dead, 217 wounded and 14 missing since early May. The military says 221 Pakistani soldiers and an unknown number of others have also been killed so far in air and ground strikes around Kargil.

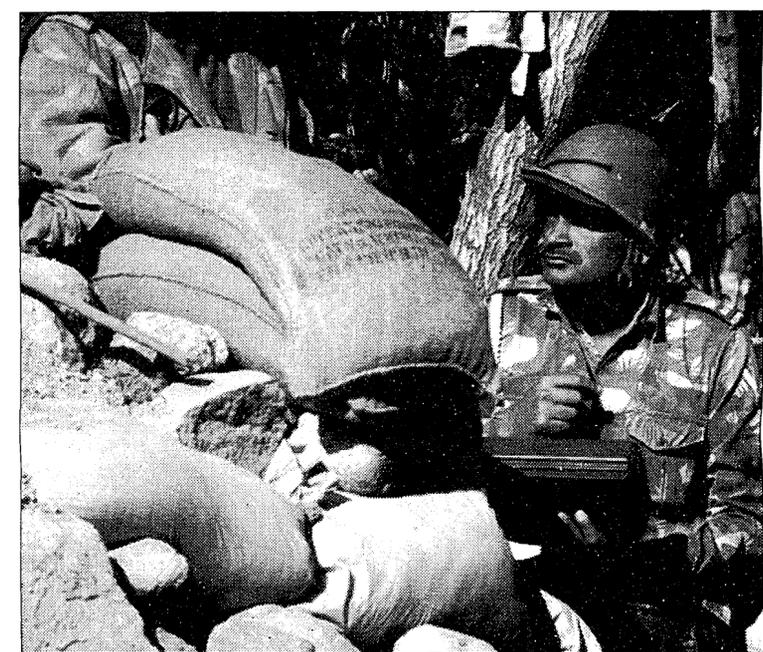
The fighting is taking place 700 kilometers (440 miles) north of New Delhi, the Indian capital.

In his address, Vajpayee demanded Pakistan remove the guerrilla fighters or have Indian

troops evict them forcibly. "It is our duty to rid our Motherland of every single intruder," he said.

In an op-ed article in The New York Times on Tuesday, former Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto urged that the Kashmir border be demilitarized and that residents be allowed to cross freely. She also suggested that the border could be patrolled by a joint Indian-Pakistani force or by international peacekeepers.

However, Ms. Bhutto has no political influence on Pakistan's current government.



An Indian soldier stands in a bunker in the Dras sector of Kashmir Tuesday. The Indian army is fighting Islamic militants who have occupied territory inside the Indian territory along the line of control that India shares with Pakistan.

Tit-for-tat weapons claims aired in Australian parliament panel

CANBERRA, Australia (AP) — Australia has made high-level complaints to Indonesia about the military providing weapons to pro-integrationist militias in East Timor, a parliamentary committee was told Tuesday.

The committee was also told that Indonesia had claimed weapons from Australia are reaching pro-independence forces in the disputed territory.

Hugh White, head of the Australian Defense Forces strategy and intelligence section, said Indonesia had informed Australia of unauthorized helicopter flights over East Timor that were suspected of delivering weapons or supplies to pro-independence forces.

An investigation had found no evidence of Australian involvement in any such shipments, although there was some

intelligence of arms reaching pro-independence forces from other sources, White said.

"We are also aware, through them telling us, that there was some concern that these unauthorized helicopter flights might be originating in Australia," White said.

Australia "went to some trouble" to find out if the claim was true, and was unable to find any evidence.

"There was also concern that these aircraft might be operating off ships in international waters in the Timor Sea. Again the answer was we were not aware of any," White said.

He said the Australian government had consistently made representations to Indonesia that reductions in the flow of armaments to fighting factions in East Timor was an important part securing peace in the territory.

weapons to pro-integration factions, including by elements of the Indonesian armed forces," he said.

"I can't give specific dates but it has continued to occur." Australia had expressed concern about "at very high levels," he said.

A U.N. mission will supervise a scheduled Aug. 8 vote in which East Timorese will decide whether to remain part of Indonesia or go their own way.

Indonesia invaded the former Portuguese colony in 1975 and annexed it in 1976. Human rights groups claim 250,000 people have died in the fighting that ensued. Indonesia disputes the figure but acknowledges human rights abuses occurred.

Pro-integrationist militias are accused of recent violence in the territory with the aim of destabilizing the vote.

London-based firm poised to win telecoms bid in Japan

TOKYO (AP) — London-based Cable and Wireless PLC appears to have won a bidding battle to gain a bigger stake in a major Japanese telecommunications company after a rival said it would not make a new offer, newspapers reported Wednesday.

Japan's Nippon Telegraph and

Telephone Corp. has told major shareholders of Tokyo-based International Digital Communications Inc. that its latest offer to buy a stake in the company is final.

In a press release Tuesday, NTT said it told Japan's Toyota Motor Corp. and Itochu Corp. about its decision to stand firm on its offer, citing time constraints.

Last week, Toyota reportedly indicated its willingness to sell its 17.7 percent stake in IDC to Cable and Wireless unless NTT, Japan's largest telecommunications company, raised its offer price again.

Itochu, which also holds a 17.7 percent stake, said it would make a decision Wednesday, the Yomiuri, Japan's largest newspa-

per, reported.

Cable and Wireless also currently holds a 17.7 percent stake in IDC, one of Japan's largest international phone companies.

Japanese media reports have said IDC executives had viewed Cable and Wireless' unsolicited takeover bid as hostile, raising the possibility they might try to resist.

But headlines in major newspapers Wednesday said the British company was likely to have now won out.

Cable and Wireless offered last week to pay 110,577 yen (\$929) per share for IDC shares owned by Toyota, topping NTT's offer of 108,974 yen (\$916) per share.

First Anniversary Mass
 for
Josefina Duenas Sablan
 June 14, 1924 - June 14, 1998
In remembrance of the passing of our beloved mother and grandmother one year ago, the family is offering daily mass at 6:00 p.m. at San Vicente Church.
Final day is June 14, 1999.
Please, join our family in prayer as we remember our loved one.
Si Yu'us Ma'ase
THE SABLAN FAMILY (TUN SEGUNDO)
Dinner follows

GM device to automatically unlock car trunks with kids

By CATHERINE STRONG
WASHINGTON (AP)— Seeking to avoid deaths in car trunks, General Motors Corp. will equip most of its four-door family cars with an infrared sensing device that automatically opens the trunk if anyone is trapped inside.

Last year during extreme summer heat, 11 children died after crawling into trunks to play and shutting the lids.

GM's automatic trunk-opening feature will be standard on the Chevrolet Impala next year and will be phased in on most of GM's four-door cars by 2002, GM officials said Monday.

The GM system uses infrared technology to detect both motion in the trunk and the "heat signature" of humans by searching for objects that are a different temperature from the trunk. The infrared system would pop open the trunk lid only if both the motion and heat sensor indicated a person could be in the

trunk and the car is in park.

The GM cars also will have a handle inside the trunk for trapped passengers to release the trunk lid manually. And engineers plan to include a distinctive horn sequence — perhaps three honks in a row from the driver horn followed by a pause — to signal a passenger is trapped in the trunk.

Since 1970, a recent study said, 1,175 people in the United States have been victims in 992 trunk entrapments — mostly adults locked in by criminals or children who unintentionally locked themselves in. At least 260 people have died.

The majority of the deaths involved a violent abduction. But it was the tragic deaths of children playing in trunks last year that prompted a federal safety agency, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, to start searching for ways to prevent trunk entrapment deaths.

Oregon is first, Hawaii last in economic growth

By MARTIN CRUTSINGER
WASHINGTON (AP)— Oregon ranked No. 1 in terms of economic growth among all states in 1997 while Hawaii, buffeted by the Asian economic crisis, was last, suffering an actual drop in output, the Commerce Department reports.

The department on Monday released its latest snapshot of how each state is doing in relation to the rest of the country in terms of its gross state product, the total output of goods and services within the state's borders.

The U.S. economy, measured by the gross domestic product for the country as a whole, grew by 4.3 percent in 1997, after adjusting for inflation. But that national figure covered a wide disparity among different states.

The best economic growth was enjoyed by residents of Oregon, with an increase of 7.6 percent, followed closely by New Hampshire, where output

of goods and services rose by 7.5 percent in 1997.

Other states with fast growing economies were Texas, up 6.8 percent; Arizona, up 6.7 percent and Colorado, with a 6.5 percent increase in output.

By contrast, Hawaii actually saw its economic output shrink in 1997 by 0.2 percent as the state suffered with the fallout from the Asian currency crisis, which slashed tourism and cut foreign investment in real estate.

Other states with meager economic growth in 1997 were Alaska, with a state GDP which rose by only 0.4 percent; North Dakota, up 0.6 percent; West Virginia, up 0.9 percent; and South Dakota, with a 1.7 percent increase.

The new government figures showed the state with the biggest economy remained California, where total output measured \$1.03 trillion in 1997, in actual dollars before adjusting for inflation, or 12.7 percent of

the national total of \$8.1 trillion in the output of goods and services measured in current dollars. After adjusting the figures for inflation, the national total output was \$6.97 trillion, while the California output, after inflation adjustment, was \$883.60 billion.

Four other states with large shares of the national gross domestic product were New York, 8 percent of the national total; Texas, 7.4 percent; Illinois, 4.9 percent, and Florida, which accounts for 4.7 percent of total GDP.

The five largest state economies account for 40 percent of the nation's economy. The five with the smallest economies, each measuring 0.2 percent of the total, were Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Vermont and Wyoming.

The report on state economic growth is produced by the Commerce Department's Bureau of Economic Analysis.

PET scans better at detecting cancer

By Deena Beasley
LOS ANGELES (Reuters)— PET scans may be expensive, but they are better than other methods for detecting lung, breast and colon cancers, according to several studies released on Tuesday.

"PET is now having a major impact on the way we take care of patients," Dr. Edward Coleman, professor of radiology at Duke University's Medical Centre and an expert in the use of the scans, said at the Society of Nuclear Medicine's annual meeting.

Twenty-five years after its introduction, the medical imaging technology known as Positron Emission Tomography (PET) is finally catching on, he said.

Several studies showed a better track record for PET scans in the detection of lung, breast and colon cancers compared to other

imaging systems such as computer tomography (CT scans) or mammograms.

PET scans use glucose, or sugar, to monitor metabolic processes in the human body to find out, among other things, the clinical stage of many cancers.

The growing popularity of PET scans was attributed to higher-resolution equipment and the decision by insurance companies and Medicare to pay for the procedure.

About 300 centres in the United States offer PET scans, up from just 50 three years ago, Coleman said.

The scans can find cancers missed by other imaging tools, resulting in improved treatment, less surgery and a better survival rate for patients, he said.

PET scans, although still expensive at around \$2,000, are becoming available to more patients now that many insurance companies and the federal government are covering the cost.

The U.S. Health Care Finance Administration, the federal agency which oversees Medicare, has approved PET scanning for melanoma, lymphoma and colorectal cancer starting in July.

Medicare has covered PET scans for lung cancer patients since January 1998.

Since then, the number of PET scans conducted in the United States has risen by 30 percent, with about 50,000 scans conducted last year, Coleman said.

"PET is a more sensitive detector," said Dr. H.C. Steinart, author of a study on PET imaging for melanoma patients. "We can detect skin cancer at an earlier stage and at sites that are not covered by conventional imaging."

In the study of 171 patients at University Hospital, Zurich, Switzerland, Steinart found that significantly more tumours were found in the 100 patients who had a PET scan, and that group had a much higher survival rate than the other 71 patients who were diagnosed using CT scans and X-rays.

Another study announced at the meeting found that PET scanning changed the way doctors decided to treat patients with colon cancers in 64 percent of cases.

PET scans also are effective in diagnosing other types of cancer, Alzheimer's disease and determining whether a heart attack patient is able to leave the hospital, Coleman said.

Fiji . . .

Continued from page 14

Fiji.

Bulicokocoko said most of the midwives (specialised nurses) had already left the country and would continue to do so if working conditions were not improved.

"They are the best and that is the reason why it is very easy for them to migrate and get jobs overseas," she said.

Cook . . .

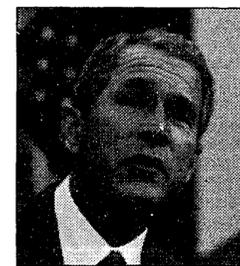
Continued from page 14

ing priorities over the last three years.

The 13 members of the NDC will be replaced by Cabinet. According to the Cook Islands Party manifesto, board members appointed by Government will also be part of a new-look NDC.

Bush 'vows' no tax hikes

By Thomas Ferraro
WASHINGTON (Reuters)— Republican presidential front-runner George W. Bush vowed on Tuesday not to raise taxes if elected president, but declined to actually sign a pledge by Americans for Tax Reform (ATR) to oppose any tax hike.



George W. Bush

"Governor Bush has a long-standing policy against signing (others') pledges," said Mindy Tucker, campaign press secretary for the Texas governor. "His own words are his own pledge."

Bush's father, President George Bush, was defeated for reelection in 1992 in part because he broke his own 1988 vow, "Read my lips, no new taxes."

The Texas governor made his promise against a tax hike in an interview with New Hampshire reporters and in a letter to the anti-tax group after Tucker was quoted as saying Bush wouldn't sign the pledge.

Her comments drew front-page coverage in the Union Leader, the leading newspaper in New Hampshire, and criticism from other Republican presidential campaigns.

"His refusal to sign is another indication we are not sure where

he is on taxes," said Shelly Uscinski, New Hampshire campaign manager for Republican presidential candidate Pat Buchanan.

Buchanan has signed the pledge, along with fellow Republicans Elizabeth Dole, Steve Forbes, Gary Bauer, Representative John Kasich of Ohio, Sen. Bob Smith of New Hampshire and former Vice President Dan Quayle.

Bush, in a telephone interview with New Hampshire reporters on Tuesday, sought to spell out position on taxes, "loud and clear."

"I agree with the pledge," said Bush, though making no mention of his refusal to sign it.

Dole says NATO should be arresting Milosevic

By RON FOURNIER
WASHINGTON (AP)— Republican presidential candidate Elizabeth Dole said Tuesday that NATO troops should arrest President Slobodan Milosevic to face his international indictment on war crimes.

"The next person who talks to him should be the one who arrests him," she said, taking a hard line on bringing the Yugoslav leader to trial.

Her remarks came as the United States, Russia and six other nations agreed on a draft U.N. resolution that could settle the conflict over Kosovo. And the Pentagon announced signs that Serb forces were preparing

to withdraw from the Yugoslav province.

Mrs. Dole, who visited refugee camps early in the crisis, said, "I hope this agreement will go through. I hope that the people of Serbia would want to honor this agreement if indeed (Milosevic) is no longer there but I can't speak to what happens next."

"I frankly have found it difficult to consider how you negotiate with a war criminal," she said. Milosevic was indicted by a U.N. tribunal on May 27.

"If you just label him and do nothing about it, it doesn't mean anything. I think he needs to be apprehended and NATO is the right force to do it," she said.

Deadline . . .

Continued from page 3

the deadline. Burns & McDonnell, the firm hired by CUC to perform an independent study of the bidders' proposals, will then review these offers to finally come up with its ranking.

CUC executive director Timothy Villagomez earlier said Burns & McDonnell was given until this month to finish the study and come up with its ranking.

CUC hired Burns & McDonnell in response to a recommendation made by the Office of the Public Auditor (OPA) on an independent review of the 13 original proposals for the project.

OPA has claimed CUC's review of the proposals was "flawed" in the midst of mount-

ing protest lodged by losing bidders who were contesting CUC's decision to award the contract to Marubeni-Sithe Energies.

The ensuing legal debate has snagged the project which meant to construct an 80-megawatt power plant to meet Saipan's future utility needs.

Meanwhile, the losing consortium protesting CUC's earlier choice to deal with Marubeni-Sithe in its \$120-million Saipan power plant project has withdrawn its bid.

Villagomez said CUC received notice that the Alsons/ Tomen/ Singapore Power/Tan Holdings group has pulled back all protests filed with CUC concerning the proposals to build the power plant.

Another bidder, Enron, which lost by a slight margin to Marubeni-Sithe is reportedly keeping its foot on the debate.

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VINYL SIGNS: For indoor/outdoor with colors, style and quality, on wood, glass, metal, plastic cloth and walls, designed in computer graphics, artistically drafted, composed with a lot of talent and knowledge, is now available at Younis Art Studio, Inc.

VINYL BANNERS: On cloth and plastic materials, from 1-5 feet wide and length from 3 feet to 50 or 75 feet and more, with any color, letters size and style and rich graphics.

Also hand painted signs and banners, artistically designed and colored on any material surface of all sizes.

DIGITAL PRINT: Signs for inside markets/stores/shops in full colors with print of the goods/merchandise on plastic sheets/boards or on transparencies on special paper or cloth for ceiling hang for display or above shelves, counters and merchandise stands, can easily be produced by the talented and capable sign makers at YAS Sign System.

Full color digital print for back light in shops window or special display in the outdoor, such as food items, drinks cosmetics, perfumes, jewelry and many more.

Vinyl signs are durable, colorful and guaranteed to last for five to seven years in all weather conditions and stands heat temperature 40-180 degrees Fahrenheit.

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YAS Signs System

at Younis Art Studio, Inc., in Garapan.

Telephone Nos. 234-6341 ☎ 234-7578 ☎

234-9797 ☎ 234-9272 or Fax No. 234-9271.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

PUBLIC NOTICE

CLASSROOM TEACHER RECRUITMENT JOB FAIR

PSS is actively engaged in its annual recruitment activities to establish the eligibility listing for the following positions:

1. Classroom Teacher I (Junior and High School level needs only)
2. Classroom Teacher II
3. Classroom Teacher III
4. Classroom Teacher IV
5. SPED Teacher (all areas)

We are inviting all interested applicants and CNMI retirees to visit us at the Job Fair. We will be available to provide assistance and answer any questions regarding our teacher recruitment.

If you want to join the PSS Teaching Professionals and your credentials meet our professional teacher profile, we cordially invite you to come to our Job Fair. Mark your calendar and schedule to attend. We will be holding this Job Fair at the following place and time:

Location: Multi-purpose convention Center in Susupe next to the Judicial Building.

Date: June 24-25, 1999; Thursday and Friday

Time: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

If you need assistance, please contact the Human Resources Office at telephone number 664-3761.

/s/ Rita Hocog Inos
Commissioner of Education

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

IT IS THE POLICY OF THE COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION (CUC) THAT THE CUC MERIT HIRING SYSTEM SHALL BE APPLIED AND ADMINISTERED ACCORDING TO THE PRINCIPLE OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL CITIZENS AND NATIONALS AS DEFINED BY THE NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH CONSTITUTION AND STATUTES REGARDLESS OF AGE, RACE, SEX, RELIGION, POLITICAL AFFILIATION OR BELIEF, MARITAL STATUS, HANDICAP OR PLACE OF ORIGIN

Job Vacancy No. 99-015

Opening Date: 06/10/99
Closing Date: 06/24/99

ACCOUNT CLERK I

(TINIAN)

DUTIES: Responsibilities include receiving various types of payments from customers, writing official cash receipts, posting payments in customer files, preparing and summarizing daily collection reports, preparing deposit tickets and balancing daily collection, assisting in the maintenance of the filing system, assisting customers, and other related duties as assigned. SUBJECT TO PRE-EMPLOYMENT DRUG SCREENING.

LOCATION: COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION, TINIAN

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Any combination equivalent to a high school diploma with at least one (1) year related work experience.

STARTING SALARY: \$10,094.68 – 12,264.90 per annum.

Applications are available at the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, Saipan, the CUC Rota or Tinian office. Copy of diploma and/or official transcript and recent police clearance must be attached. FAILURE TO PROVIDE THE REQUIRED DOCUMENTS WILL RESULT IN AUTOMATIC DISQUALIFICATION.

Winners . . .

Continued from page 12

place).

Six . . .

Continued from page 12

The expenses of the CNMI delegation are handled by PSS.

The team has expressed its gratitude and appreciation to the Marianas Visitors Authority, Richard Pierce of Saipan Garment Manufacturers Association, Inos and Sablan for the support and contribution to the entire team.

The Academic Challenge was

The Mariana Animal Welfare Society invites all participants, family members, and friends to the awards ceremony.

originally called the Panasonic Academic Challenge. It was first held in 1988 after a successful result of the Florida High School Academic Tournament that began in 1986.

Since then, each state and territories are invited to send a team of six high school students to compete for the title as the National Champion.

This would be the 8th year that the CNMI is sending a team to participate in the national event.

Small . . .

Continued from page 12

business.

• 4 Business Training Workshops.

1. How to Start a Business with

less than \$1,000 - By Rik Villegas

2. Fifty Free Ways to market your Business - By Rik Villegas

3. Financing Issues - By SBA, CDA and participating lending institutions.

4. Business Planning - By BDC Staff.

Deadline . . .

Continued from page 12

erations.

Those people interested in receiving federal cost share assistance should contact the Saipan & Northern Islands Soil Water Conservation District at 233-0650 or NRCS at 233-3415 for further in-

formation.

Applicants must have control of the land for the life of the contract, minimum of 5 years, to qualify. Previous applicants, who signed up earlier this year, and 1998 applicants as well, should contact the NRCS office to verify that they have filled out all of the proper forms and received all of the pertinent information concerning EOIP.

DES . . .

Continued from page 11

have these skills so that we may go

Winners . . .

Continued from page 11

Wonenberg over twelve months, and then at the end of the school

Relay . . .

Continued from page 8

want people to be in the condition and situation that I was in after my mother died. It is hard to lose

Former . . .

Continued from page 8

years behind bars for her actions.

One of the court prosecution witnesses was Rosalyn Villagomez; she was Taitano's co-worker.

Lizama . . .

Continued from page 6

Hillblom estate and 100 Does.

MoFo and Calvo as well as its lawyers Fisher and Jacob were sued for legal malpractice based on negligence and failure to name additional appropriate defendants

on to the next level. We would like to say thank you for teaching us right from wrong. Thank you for caring, thank you for listening,

year the winners and contributions are announced.

The poetry judges were Fran Ascencio, Nancy Flood and Lek Algaier.

Anyone wishing a copy of the

someone when it could be prevented so I made a promise and commitment to help those people who still have a chance and prevent it. Our effort is more on preventive than curative. I believe in research, awareness and preventive programs," Gaskins said.

Villagomez has earlier pled guilty to similar charges in exchange for her testimony against Taitano.

One other defendant charged in the much-publicized case is former head of DOE's secondary education program Dr. Gayle Hendricks. Her trial is

thank you for understanding, and most of all, thank you for teaching," Flores told the teachers yesterday.

poetry and art booklet should drop by the Student Lounge or the Student Cafeteria for a free copy.

Submissions are open to all NMC students, full or part-time.

According to Relay for Life, for 1999, it is projected that 2,500 communities will hold Relay for Life events, with 1.5 million participants, 125,000 team captains, 250,000 cancer survivors, and \$123 million will be raised to fight cancer.

scheduled to begin in the next two weeks.

Meanwhile Taitano is free on bail awaiting sentencing. It is believed she will appeal the decision to Guam's Supreme Court. Sentencing is scheduled for mid-August.

in the claim against former executor's counsel, Carlsmith law firm.

MoFo and Bank of Saipan on the other hand, were sued for breach of fiduciary duty and negligent misrepresentation of fact.

Off air . . .

Continued from page 5

failure to sign on since Sunday, according to Lynn.

But the KSRI management is fixing the problem and has already sent their equipment to be fixed in Santa Barbara in the mainland.

"Some microchips and crystals

Before filing the lawsuit, Mendiola asked permission from the court to allow him to sue MoFo and others allegedly to prevent the loss of an estimated \$200 million Hillblom assets.

had to be replaced," Lynn disclosed. Lynn and the disc jockeys are currently preoccupied coordinating with their engineers, seeing to it that they reach their Monday deadline.

"We would like to thank our listeners and clients for their patience. At the same time, we are very sorry for the inconvenience this may be causing them," Lynn concluded.

CUC . . .

Continued from page 3

has the means to accomplish that vision," said Dela Cruz in his report.

CUC Executive Director Timothy Villagomez earlier said the committee is "fine-tuning" the proposal to ensure that the project complies with existing commonwealth and federal government regulations.

A team of foreign engineers has helped in coming up with a proposal for a low-cost, state-of-the-

art water desalination facility.

Sablan, in an earlier interview said CUC has opted to ask its engineers to study the matter following opposition raised by consumers about the increased bills they will be having should a desalination plant is finally put into place.

Sablan expressed hopes that with the advancement in desalination technology a plant may now cost less than it used to be some three years ago or when the first RFP was issued under the previous administration's water emergency task force.

APPU . . .

Continued from page 3

abruptly veer away from his prepared speech during the APPU plenary session to briefly discuss the Philippine government's position, as well as the move taken by the House of Representatives, on the issue.

In his proposed resolution, which will be taken up during the next APPU meeting, Padilla said the current situation on the continued encroachment of mainland Chinese fishers into the country's territories violates the Philippines' territorial claims.

He mentioned a controversial chase incident last month involving a Chinese fishing vessel and the Philippine Navy off the Scarborough Shoal, which resulted to the sinking of the fishing

Computer export cap may be eased

By JEANNINE AVERSA

WASHINGTON (AP)—Commerce officials are considering making it easier for U.S. companies to sell high-powered computers to other countries by easing export restrictions on them.

It's not clear when the Commerce Department, which has been working with other agencies on the matter for about a

year, will send the White House a final proposal, administration officials said Tuesday, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"The issue is under review but we do not anticipate a decision by the end of the week," said National Security Council spokesman Michael Hammer.

People involved in the debate over the export restrictions said the Commerce Department was

considering loosening exports rules on certain computer sales to most countries in Asia, Africa, Latin America and Central and Eastern Europe. But for now, the administration is leaning against easing those restrictions on China and about 50 other countries, those people said.

"I think in the end it's a mistake to treat the current problem of China in a Cold War fashion,"

considering loosening exports rules on certain computer sales to most countries in Asia, Africa, Latin America and Central and Eastern Europe. But for now, the administration is leaning against easing those restrictions on China and about 50 other countries, those people said.

"I think in the end it's a mistake to treat the current problem of China in a Cold War fashion,"

said Daniel Goure, a defense analyst with the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

"To try and put a barrier down and expect that to last more than a nanosecond is just crazy. What you need is not tighter controls, but a different approach."

But a Commerce Department official said "no decisions have been reached" regarding sales to China or any other countries.

9 more . . .

Continued from page 1

Wen Shen Guo, and Guo Xiao assisted in the operation and the sailing of a fishing vessel "Zhe Yong Yu 7008" which was carrying 152 Chinese, including themselves, from Fujian Province in China toward Guam.

Before April 10 and in April

23, one or more of the defendants would distribute food to one or more of the passengers on board the ship.

One or more of the defendants contacted a co-conspirator back in China to discuss among other things, the ship's position enroute to Guam.

According to the separate indictment, during the early part of

April defendants Zhou and He Lin and two unindicted co-conspirators assisted in the sailing of a fishing vessel which was carrying 103 Chinese from Fujian Province toward Guam.

Before April 19 and in April 28, Zhou and one or more of the unindicted co-conspirators would distribute food to the passengers.

The third indictment stated that beginning April 26 and continuing through May 1999, defendants Lee, Nan Qi Wong, and Jia Hui Lin attempted to bring an alien to the US.

The US government earlier also charged six crewmen of one of those intercepted Guam-bound ships carrying 141 Chinese nationals last April.

Underwood . . .

Continued from page 1

CNMI under the minimum wage," Underwood said.

"As we all know, the CNMI is in some difficulty right now in terms of the national media and even in Congress. The CNMI's inclusion in the minimum wage bills just shows that the CNMI is under siege in a lot of different ways," Underwood added.

Another House bill, H.R. 964 sponsored by Rep. Jack Quinn entitled the Long Term Minimum

Wage Act Adjustment Act of 1999, not only seeks to increase the minimum wage but pegs it to the Consumer Price Index as well. H.R. 964, introduced last March, amends the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to increase the Federal minimum to: (1) \$5.55 an hour during the year beginning on September 1, 1999; (2) \$5.85 an hour during the year beginning on September 1, 2000; and (3) \$6.15 an hour during the year beginning on September 1, 2001.

It also increases the minimum wage rate, by indexing it to the

Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers, beginning on September 1, 2002, and each September 1 thereafter. It also prohibits: (1) such increases from exceeding four percent in any one calendar year; and (2) the minimum wage from falling below the previous year's level.

According to Underwood, even Republican leaders in the House, acknowledge that some minimum wage legislation will pass.

"I don't believe it will be the more than the one dollar increase that some Democratic lawmakers

have proposed. But there might be a new minimum wage law passed because the Republicans need to shore up some of their weaknesses in their current political standings," Underwood said.

Meanwhile, the Small Business Survival Committee (SBSC), a nonpartisan, nonprofit small business advocacy group, has already come out with a statement opposing the new minimum wage legislation.

According to SBSC, all studies evaluating the impact of the minimum wage find that employment is lower than it would be without a minimum wage.

SBSC specifically pointed out that Rep. Jack Quinn's proposal to both increase the minimum wage by \$1 over the next three years and thereafter index the minimum wage for inflation was a particularly awful idea.

"Inflation indexing for the minimum wage would transform the sporadic stupidity of increasing the minimum wage into an annual event," SBSC said.

Saipan seen. . .

Continued from page 1

"We have ran out of cemeteries," said Hofschneider, in an interview yesterday.

Hofschneider said he is pushing for the passage of a bill he sponsored seeking to expand the veteran's cemetery in Marpi by six more hectares to accommodate a new public cemetery that will have a cremation facility, crypts and underground burial space.

He said he "is looking at requesting" Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio to set aside at least \$1.5 million from the new capital improvement projects list for the cemetery.

"It is part of the infrastructure need of the commonwealth. It is a public need," Hofschneider said. Looking for a cemetery site was not easy, said Hofschneider.

"Believe me, I've looked around and every time we find a plot, every time we find a suitable place, (the site) is also coincidentally being utilized as a deep well project," he said.

"What we found is that since the veteran cemetery has an approved site in Marpi, we thought it will be appropriate if we just expand it," he added.

Hofschneider said government would have just opted to

privatized cemeteries had the value of Saipan's lands been not so high as to discourage investors.

"The property in Saipan... has appreciated to a point where private undertaking of a cemetery is not cost effective," he said. Besides, he said, Saipan residents could not probably afford to pay up to \$15,000 a plot for their dead.

Under Hofschneider's House Bill 11-413, the Department of Lands and Natural Resources would be given the six-hectare lot to develop the public cemetery.

The Department of Public Health is also being sought to administer and manage its use.

Alert . . .

Continued from page 1

mosquitoes which are carriers for life-threatening viral diseases.

DPH, particularly the Division of Public Health's Bureau of Environmental Health division, has initiated a house-to-house inspection within the 300-meter radius from the houses of the two children.

Simultaneous education on mosquito prevention and elimination of breeding sites are being done during the inspections.

Arriola said health officials also inspected blood samples of the victims, as well as of people residing within the 300-meter radius from the victims' residence.

He said BEH inspectors have the necessary skills to take care of the current situations.

"Everything is under control. DPH does not want to cause panic in bringing this up. We only want the community to be prepared," the health official said.

Health officials are urging the community to clean their surroundings by disposing of trash and garbage properly, cut down or trim overgrown bush or grass to at least two to three inches from the ground, and to discard empty bottles, cans buckets and other artificial containers that can hold water, by either turning them upside down or take them to the public dump.

David Rosario, public health advisor, said DPH intensified its mosquito surveillance in all entry points including the Saipan Inter-

national Airport in line with the prevalence and outbreak of malaria and other mosquito-borne diseases.

"We regularly check mosquito larvae at the seaport and airport using ovi-traps to check whether we have a dangerous mosquito being brought here or none," he said.

Ovi-traps were also installed near the houses of the two children. Arriola also pointed out that DPH's advisories are not only because of the recent cases of the two children, but also because of the recent outbreak in neighboring countries, particularly the dengue outbreak in the Philippines and the Japanese encephalitis outbreak in Malaysia which forced its government to kill hundreds of pigs.

In the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
PARK, BOK SUN,
Plaintiff,
v.
JO, SUK KON KOREA TOWN, INC.
KIM, BI SOOK LEE and KO, HAN-YOON
Defendants.
Civil Action No. 98-874B

FIRST AMENDED NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

By virtue of a foreclosure judgment entered on December 9, 1999, Plaintiff, Park, Bok Sun, obtained a judgment against Defendants, Jo, Suk Kon, Korea Town, Inc., and Ko, Han-Yoon, in the amount of Two Hundred Forty Three Thousand Three Hundred Fifty Five Dollars and Seven cents (243,355.07), plus interest thereon, at the rate of nine percent (9%) per annum, from the date of the judgment. Kim, Bi Sook Lee subsequently was considered to be a Defendant of interest.

In said judgment, the Court directed and authorized the public sale of a 55-year leasehold in a parcel of Middle Road real estate, Lot No. 2003-2-1, in Chalan LauLau Village, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that at a public auction to be held at the hour of 1:00 p.m. on **Thursday, July 1, 1999**, at the office of the **Pacific Mediation Center**, located on the 2nd Floor of the Union Bank building, Oleai Center, Oleai Village, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the 55-year leasehold in the aforementioned property will be sold by me pursuant to 2 CMC Section 4537(e) of the highest bidder for cash.

The sale will be open to the general public.

DATED this 7th day of June, 1999.

/s/ JOHN B. JOYNER, Auctioneer
(670) 235-8061; 235-8070 (fax)

In the Superior Court of Guam

CECELIA P. MAGLALANG
Plaintiff,

vs.

BENITO L. MAGLALANG
Defendant.

Domestic Case No. DM 0366-99

SUMMONS

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT:
BENITO L. MAGLALANG:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to serve upon William D. Pesch, attorney for Plaintiff, whose address is: Suite 201, 173 Aspinall Avenue, Agana, Guam, 96910, an answer to the Complaint which is herewith served upon you, within thirty (30) days after service of this summons upon you, exclusive of the date of service. If you fail to do so, judgment by default will be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

Dated: June 02, 1999

ALFREDO M. BORLAS, clerk
Superior Court of Guam

By: **PETE C. MIYASAKI**
DEPUTY CLERK

In the Superior Court of Guam

TEODORA C. SORIANO
Plaintiff,

vs.

JAMES B. SORIANO
Defendant.

Domestic Case No. DM 0324-99

SUMMONS

(OFF ISLAND)

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT:
JAMES B. SORIANO:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to serve upon William D. Pesch, attorney for plaintiff, whose address is: Suite 201, 173 Aspinall Avenue, Agana, Guam, 96910, an answer to the Complaint which is herewith served upon you within thirty (30) days after service of this summons upon you, exclusive of the date of service. If you fail to do so, judgment by default will be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

Dated: May 12, 1999

ALFREDO M. BORLAS, clerk
Superior Court of Guam

By: **LORETTA L.C. ANDERSON**
DEPUTY CLERK

Death Announcement

In Loving Memory

FELIPE AGULTO SALAS

(FORMER JUDGE)

Was called to his eternal rest at the age of 71 years old at the Commonwealth Health Center

BORN: SEPTEMBER 13, 1927
DIED: JUNE 8, 1999



Predeceased by:
Mother: Maria Agulto Salas
Father: Jose Fausto Salas
Brother: Crispin A. Salas
In-Laws: Henry & Ana Villagomez Hofschneider

Survived by:
Wife: Margaret (Meggie) Hofschneider Salas
Children, Spouses and Grandchildren:
 Jose H. & Maria B. Salas (Joaquina, Joseph, Daniel & Michael)
 Ana H. Salas & Arturo B. Alcazar (Zerlyn)
 Carlos H. & Roxanne B. Salas (Brandi)
 Elizabeth S. & Victor Balajadia (James & Maria)
 Gloria S. & Gregory Castro (Gregory & Vincent)
 Wilhelmina S. & Edward Borja (Brianna & Brian)
 Eugenia S. & Rex I. Palacios (Christina, Gabriella & Patricia)
 (Brian & Elizabeth Palacios (Florida))
In-Laws: William V. (deceased) & Primitiva S. Hofschneider
 Freddy V. (deceased) & Maria U. Hofschneider
 Henry V. & Magdalena M. Hofschneider
 Richard V. & Andresina U. Hofschneider
 Edward V. (deceased) & Marcela Hofschneider
 Sylvestre & Augusta H. Palacios
 Bernard V. & Guadalupe R. Hofschneider
 Jose & Wilhelmina H. San Nicolas
 Hedwig V. (deceased) & Emerenciana A. Hofschneider

Also survived by numerous cousins, nieces and nephews.

Nightly rosary is being said at Kristo Rai Church, Garapan, Saipan at 8:00 p.m.
 Funeral arrangements are being coordinated and will be announced at a later date.

Marianas Variety Classified Ads Section

DEADLINE: 12:00 noon the day prior to publication
 NOTE: If some reason your advertisement is incorrect, call us immediately to make the necessary corrections. The Marianas Variety News and Views is responsible only for one incorrect insertion. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time.

Employment Wanted

Job Vacancy Announcement

PUBLIC NOTICE

All interested resident workers are urged to register at the Dept. of Labor & Immigration, Division of Employment Services for the job/s being advertised in which you are qualified and available. For further assistance, please call Alfred A. Pangelinan at Tel. 664-2078.

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 10 MECHANIC-Salary:\$3.05-6.50 per hour

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 01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
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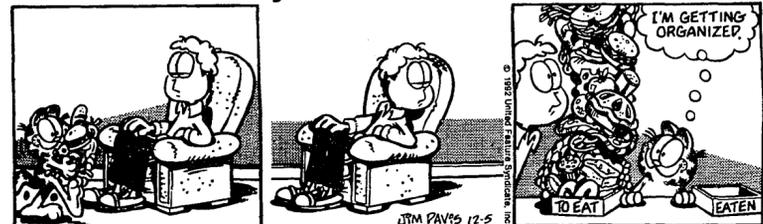
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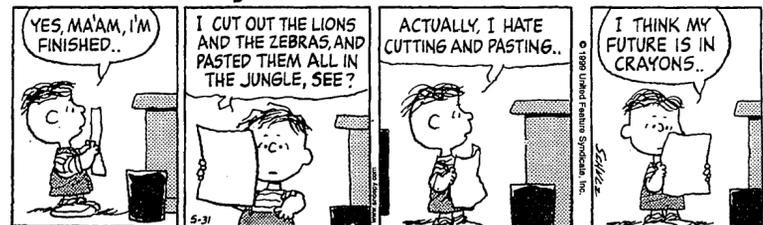
EK & MEEK® by Howie Schneider



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STELLA WILDER YOUR BIRTHDAY

THURSDAY, JUNE 10, 1999
 Born today, you are likely to find yourself squarely in the spotlight over a prolonged period of time. You will use your fame and notoriety for the common good, though you're certainly not above enjoying personal gains when they come your way! You are versatile, and quite interested in all sorts of endeavors. Still, you must trust in your own natural abilities to get you as far as possible in life. You boast a good deal of physical ability and stamina which, together, should secure you a place in the memories of those who have the privilege of watching you at work.

You command respect no matter where you go, despite your sometimes controversial words, actions, or beliefs. Fortunately, you do not possess what many call the "artistic temperament." You are, instead, far more practical and realistic in your outlook and behavior.

Also born on this date are: Maurice Sendak, author; F. Lee Bailey, attorney; Judy Garland, actress and singer; Saul Bellow, author; Prince Philip of England.

To see what is in store for you tomorrow, find your birthday and read the corresponding paragraph. Let your birthday star be your daily guide.

FRIDAY, JUNE 11
GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
 — This is no time for haphazard or random efforts. You will want to commit yourself fully, or not at all. Things must be done with firm resolve.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
 — What you're waiting for is not likely to come to you today unless you can successfully shift the current tide of progress.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
 — You may be unusually dependent today, even while you are feeling the need to assert your own authority. Some conflict is unavoidable.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
 — You may find yourself face-to-face with an emotional challenge of sorts today. You'll have a pivotal decision to make before nightfall.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
 — A social occasion may become the perfect forum for your new and unconventional ideas today. Be sure to speak up when it's your turn!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
 — Common courtesies carry more weight than usual today. You must be willing to put in that extra effort for a friend who is counting on you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
 — Don't count on anyone else sticking his or her neck out for you today, particularly since you're expecting to bend the rules.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
 — Don't make hasty judgments today, especially where your own friends are concerned. Give others the benefit of the doubt.



CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS
 1 Buddies
 5 Castor —
 8 Appear
 12 Ken or Lena
 13 Opp. of SSW
 14 Prod
 15 Mona —
 16 — opener
 17 Prejudice
 18 Ma and Pa
 20 Tropical lizard
 22 Cerium symbol
 23 Juicy fruit
 24 Express desire
 27 "Chitty Chitty, —"
 31 Vowel trio
 32 Playing card
 33 Edgar Allan
 34 Like female sibling
 36 Finnish first

DOWN
 1 11th U.S. president
 2 "I cannot tell —"
 3 — price
 4 Grab
 5 Single instance
 6 Actress Balin
 7 Mercy
 8 Outlying part of a city
 9 Silkworm
 10 Richard or
 11 Tableland
 19 — Mans
 21 Pledge as security
 23 Newman and Reiser
 24 NBA's Unsettled
 25 Roman three
 26 Distress signal
 27 Suffering the death of a loved one
 28 Mimic
 29 Neither's companion
 30 Earth (comb. form)
 32 Mr. Arnaz
 35 Sheer nettles
 36 Mr. Borgnine
 38 Derek or Jackson
 39 On the water
 40 — loaf
 41 Otherwise
 42 — to order
 43 "Dis —"
 44 — Cola
 45 Questions
 48 Wedding words



KidSpot™ by Dick Rogers

5 x 0 = 1 DOWN

9 ACROSS: OPPOSITE OF DAY

6 ACROSS

7 ACROSS

4 ACROSS

8 ACROSS: OPPOSITE OF UP

DOWN: 1, ZEBRA, 2, BALLROOM, 3, APRON, 5, TARGET

ACROSS: 1, ZEBRA, 4, POT, 6, RULER, 7, OAR, 8, DOWN, 9, NIGHT

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Phillies beat Yankees

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Marlon Anderson had two hits and drove in three runs, and Rob Ducey had a bases-loaded triple to cap a nine-run seventh inning as the Philadelphia Phillies came back from a five-run deficit to beat the New York Yankees 11-5.

Starters Curt Schilling of Philadelphia and Hideki Irabu of New York were long gone Tuesday night when the Phillies erupted along with their largest, loudest crowd of the season with two runs in the sixth and nine in the seventh to hand New York its fifth loss in five games at Veterans Stadium.

Many in the crowd of 44,444 cheered when Yankees fans headed for the exits after Ducey capped the rally with a three-run triple off Dan Naulty. It was the Phillies' biggest inning of the season and the biggest the Yankees have allowed.

Yorkis Perez (3-1) pitched a scoreless inning for the victory, and Jason Grimsley (5-1) was the loser.

Derek Jeter and Tino Martinez

homered for New York.

Mets 11, Blue Jays 3
At New York, Jason Istringhausen earned his first Major League victory since beating Toronto in 1997 and the Mets, with manager Bobby Valentine temporarily taking over as the third-base coach, downed the Blue Jays.

Key Ordenez went 4-for-5 as the Mets won their third in a row. The streak came after general manager Steve Phillips fired the pitching, hitting and bullpen coaches following eight straight defeats.

New York lost another coach — albeit briefly — when Cookie Rojas was ejected in the third inning for arguing that third-base umpire Angel Hernandez should have called a balk.

Valentine came out of the dugout to continue the dispute, then stayed in the coaching box for the rest of the inning. Rickey Henderson immediately hit a sacrifice fly that tied it at 1, and Edgardo Alfonzo followed with a two-run homer.

Istringhausen (1-1) allowed two

hits in 5 2-3 innings.

Ordenez's two-run single capped a four-run seventh that made it 8-3, and Roger Cedeno hit a three-run homer in the eighth.

Pat Hentgen (4-5) was the loser. Marlins 2, Orioles 1, 1st Game At Miami, Jesse Orosco walked Luis Castillo on a 3-2 pitch with two out and the bases loaded in the ninth as Florida beat Baltimore in the first game of a doubleheader.

Bruce Aven reached on an infield single to start the ninth against Mike Timlin (2-5), then took second on a sacrifice by Mark Kotsay. Tim Hyers walked against Orosco, and Dave Berg was hit by a pitch with two out to load the bases.

Brian Edmondson (3-3) pitched a scoreless ninth.

Marlins 5, Orioles 3, 2nd Game At Miami, Tim Hyers drove in three runs, including the tiebreaker with an eighth-inning triple, and the surging Florida Marlins beat the Baltimore Orioles 5-3 to complete a doubleheader sweep.

Florida's second victory extended the majors' longest current winning streak to seven.

At Montreal, Dan Smith retired

20 straight batters at one point in his Major League debut as the Expos beat Boston.

Smith (1-0) allowed three hits to the first four batters he faced, including an RBI single to Nomar Garciaparra. He didn't allow another baserunner before being lifted for a pinch-hitter in the seventh inning.

Smith, called up from Ottawa on Monday, struck out nine — the most by an Expos starter this season — to tie a team record for strikeouts in a major league debut.

Vladimir Guerrero hit a two-run homer in the sixth off Tim Wakefield (3-6) as Montreal sent the Red Sox to their season-high fourth straight loss.

Tigers 11, Pirates 4
At Detroit, Nelson Cruz pitched seven strong innings to win his first Major League start and Detroit hit five homers to beat Pittsburgh.

Damion Easley, Gregg Jefferies, Dean Palmer, Juan Encarnacion and Luis Polonia homered for the Tigers.

Cruz (1-0), a right-hander who was called up late Monday after scheduled starter Justin Thompson complained of back spasms, gave up only one run and two hits. He struck out two and walked three.

Guam advanced to Friday's grand gold medal showdown against Western Samoa, ripping American Samoa 95-84 Tuesday night. But the classic clash that people are still talking about today took place Monday night.

For the second time in three days, Guam's amazing goliath-slayers leveled a much larger opponent, this time stunning French power New Caledonia 77-71 before a thundering home crowd of 4,500 at the University of Guam Fieldhouse.

"It's the greatest feeling in the world," said Guam forward Joey Cepeda as friends and supporters from every corner of Guam swarmed him and his teammates. "We still have a long way to go but I guess if we play like this, we can do anything."

They can do anything and everything the way Guam is playing in SPG 1999.

Now Guam will fight for the gold medal against mighty Western Samoa 8 p.m. Friday at UOG. Fred Peters hit 16 points and Mike Lee and Jesse Pinaula added 15 apiece in the romp against American Samoa. Guam cruised to a 56-34 halftime lead and then held back a spirited American Samoa charge.

The heroes of local basketball, the kings of this court, advanced a giant step toward their march to reclaim the SPG basketball crown and its first gold since '79. After Tuesday's win against American Samoa, Guam sported a perfect 4-0 mark in the six-team tourney that decides who advances to the medal games. Western Samoa is also 4-0, crushing New Caledonia 77-43.

Overall in SPG play, Guam is a perfect 6-0, just like power-

N.C. swimmer harvests golds

By Francis S. Dallsay

For the Variety
SWIMMER Olivier Saminadin, of New Caledonia, has his hands full.

Last night the twenty-one-year-old garnered three more gold medals, tallying up his medal count in the XI South Pacific Games to 12 golds and 1 silver.

In the last day of swimming competitions, he demonstrated his versatility and endurance, competing in three events. His first one was the 200-meter individual race. There, he outperformed his competition, touching the wall before Guam's Dan O'Keefe, who garnered silver. In 2 minutes, 8.24

seconds, Saminadin won gold and set a new South Pacific Games record.

For his next race, Saminadin endured the torture of 30 laps of swimming in the 1500-meter freestyle. At that race he led the pack nearly from start to end, finishing almost a minute ahead of silver medalist, Ben Wells of Papua New Guinea. For the final swimming competition of SPG '99, Saminadin helped New Caledonia win the gold in the 400-meter relay medley, leading the pack over silver winner, Guam.

"Words can't express how I feel," said Saminadin. "I just

want to go out and party now."

But he'll have little time to do so, as he prepares himself for next year's Olympics in Sydney. In March of 2000, he will be competing in a qualifier to make the Olympic swim team of France. Until then, he said he will persist and continue his rigorous training

which involves two practice sessions per day, for seven days a week.

In other swimming action, two other SPG records were broken. The first was set by Diane Bui-Duyet of New Caledonia, who won gold and chopped three seconds off the old record, with a

time of 2:25.92 for the women's 200-meter butterfly. Caroline Pickering of Fiji also set a new record, as she grabbed the gold medal for the women's 50-meter freestyle, with a time of 26.92. In addition, Pickering garnered another gold in the 200-meter backstroke.

Guam's basketball team to play for gold

By Tony Diaz
BRING on your giants. We came to play.

Whatever else happens in the 11th South Pacific Games, the books chronicling the basketball fables of this Pacific sports festival will include some memorable moments produced by Guam's young hardwood warriors.

Guam advanced to Friday's grand gold medal showdown against Western Samoa, ripping American Samoa 95-84 Tuesday night. But the classic clash that people are still talking about today took place Monday night.

For the second time in three days, Guam's amazing goliath-slayers leveled a much larger opponent, this time stunning French power New Caledonia 77-71 before a thundering home crowd of 4,500 at the University of Guam Fieldhouse.

"It's the greatest feeling in the world," said Guam forward Joey Cepeda as friends and supporters from every corner of Guam swarmed him and his teammates. "We still have a long way to go but I guess if we play like this, we can do anything."

They can do anything and everything the way Guam is playing in SPG 1999.

Now Guam will fight for the gold medal against mighty Western Samoa 8 p.m. Friday at UOG. Fred Peters hit 16 points and Mike Lee and Jesse Pinaula added 15 apiece in the romp against American Samoa. Guam cruised to a 56-34 halftime lead and then held back a spirited American Samoa charge.

The heroes of local basketball, the kings of this court, advanced a giant step toward their march to reclaim the SPG basketball crown and its first gold since '79. After Tuesday's win against American Samoa, Guam sported a perfect 4-0 mark in the six-team tourney that decides who advances to the medal games. Western Samoa is also 4-0, crushing New Caledonia 77-43.

Overall in SPG play, Guam is a perfect 6-0, just like power-

packed Samoa. In a sneak preview of the gold game, Guam and Western Samoa played last night in what essentially was an insignificant contest since both had already secured a gold medal berth.

Monday, Cepeda provided the big burst plays for Guam in many critical situations. He teamed with a diving Mike Swaney for a steal which he turned into fastbreak bucket with 1:25 left to play. That move broke the game open from a one-point 72-71 Guam lead to a 74-71 advantage. That was the play that broke New Caledonia's back. The startled giants, with some players standing 6-foot-7, 6-foot-8, could not recover from that deadly Chamorro slingshot.

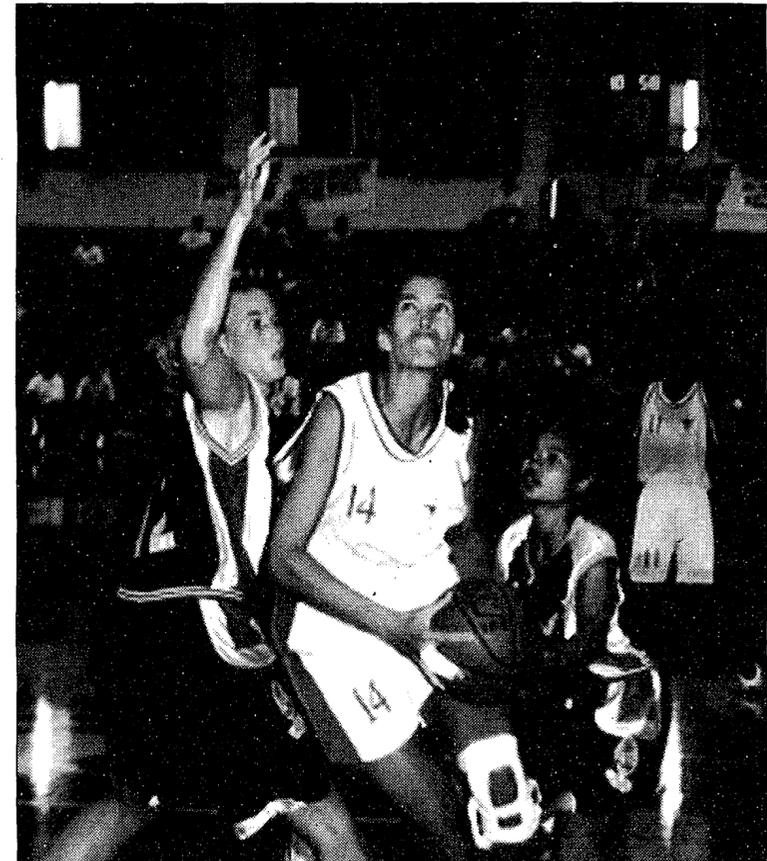
Chris Fernandez hit three free throws within the last 32 seconds of play and center Fred Peters grabbed two key rebounds and intercepted a pass to finish the kill as thousands roared and hugged each other at the Mangilao facility.

"Sweet, very sweet," said Swaney. "This is probably one of the best teams in the tournament," he said referring to New Caledonia. "We consider this the road, the road to gold."

"I think in the back of everybody's mind, including myself, we saw New Caledonia as one of the contenders for the gold," said Guam Head Coach Paul Shimizu. "Strong contender. Our performance out there gave us good confidence overall."

Before the game even started, everybody in the UOG arena knew it would be a tough night for Guam. We were starting at Redwood trees dunking the basketball during pregame warm-ups.

New Caledonia, led by 6-foot-8 center Bertrand Gely and strongly-built 6-7 forward Fabrice Chaliot, greatly outsize Guam. Pretty much every New Caledonia player stood taller than the Guam player guarding him.



A Tahitian dives between Tosca Lindberg and Shelly Sison with Jessica Sanchez waiting in the wing. Tahiti 49, Guam 39.
Photo by Eduardo C. Siguenza

Guam...

Continued from page 3

grant is a good shot in the arm for the Superior Court Program who has already taken steps to establish a drug court system.

The Superior Court of Guam already has a locally funded drug court program to handle drug dealer and rehabilitate drug users. In May, the first cycle of the Drug Education program graduated 27 participants, Superior Court Public Information Officer Mercy Hernandez. The cycle is one of the local programs that tries to promote the rehabilitation of repeat drug offenders. This program is a proactive approach the court is taking in dealing with repeat

offenders. The locally funded cycle is a unique program that no other jurisdiction has implemented before, said Hernandez. It deals with repeat offenders and the issue of rehabilitation. According to Hernandez, this initiative played a big role in the court's award of the federal grant.

A fully operational drug court is earmarked for completion in the next calendar year, Hernandez said. Court officials are "extremely happy" that the federal grant money was obtained. Presiding Judge Alberto.

Laromora III has been actively pursuing the issue of obtaining a grant for the past few years through continued correspondence with the Bureau of Justice

Assistance, she said. The court will receive the funding quarterly and will have to report all expenses. The federal grant will be used to enhance and support rehabilitation programs, the installation of new technology, case management and personnel training.

A release from Underwood's office stated that the drug courts are part of President Bill Clinton's proposed Zero Tolerance Initiative.

The OJP has awarded grants that total over \$100 million to help jurisdictions plan, implement, enhance or evaluate drug courts. There are currently over 350 drug courts nationwide and 200 more are in the planning stages.

Feds...

Continued from page 3

removal. With the issuance of the NTP, the contractor is given the go-signal to mobilize personnel and

equipment before the project actually takes off.

The mobilization, according to Morrison, would be a continuing process as it is deemed necessary to support the needs and demands of the construction project.

A range of 500 to 700 people,

which include managers and workers, will be mobilized, said Morrison.

A minimum of two and a maximum of four mobilization camps will be established, he said, to accommodate the 500-700 workforce.

NMI out...

Continued from page 28

with a double, two-RBI for a 2-0 lead. David Camacho's sacrifice to right field added a run. With one out Greg F. Camacho connected for a triple, one-RBI. A sacrifice by Ray Seman to right field gave CNMI a 5-0 lead, before Gloyd Martin popped out to center.

Pitching for FSM was Torres Whitney who became very effective following a mediocre first inning, with breaking balls.

On their first at-bat, with two men on base, FSM's Hilty Kilma scored FSM's first run on a sacrifice to right field.

CNMI continued to look good

in defense with center-fielder Mark Toves's throw from the outfield in time for a tag (out) at the plate ending the first inning for FSM, after just two runs.

What's different about the FSM team? Most of the players are left-handed. Seven of the starting nine are lefties, according to a game official.

What's effective about team FSM? "They can hit," said the game official.

CNMI then added two more runs in the second inning on Melvin Sakisat's two-RBI triple to shallow right-field.

The third inning started looking better for FSM after scoring three runs.

Then the ballgame took a turnaround.

With FSM batters finding their mark on pitcher Norbert Torres, Jesse Manibusan stepped up to the plate in relief.

With FSM up to bat, in the fourth inning, Rubar Zepty narrowed CNMI's lead to one after a sacrifice fly to right field.

The tide turned for good when in the same inning Hilty Kilma connected for two-RBIs to center field and took the lead at 8-7. A passed-ball allowed Kilma to score for a 9-7 FSM lead.

The score was, 11-7 at the end of the fifth.

Another run in the sixth inning gave FSM a final, 12-7 victory.

With the loss CNMI is eliminated from further play.

FSM advances to medal round competition today.

NMI in...

Continued from page 28

Palau made it to the medal rounds by their Women's and Men's Team representatives making second in the 250 Meter One-Man (Va'a) competition.

Wallis and Fatuna, Fiji and New Caledonia will be competing in majority of the outrigger events, performing strong and steady paddling in the 250, 500, 1000 and 2,500 Meter races.

1999 South Pacific Games Outrigger Semi-Final Results

Men's 500 Meter Heat #35

Tahiti 2:00.88
Fiji 2:08.18

New Caledonia 2:14.31
Men's 500 Meter Heat #36

Wallis and Fatuna 2:02.98
Guam 2:15.06

CNMI 2:17.09
Women's 500 Meter Heat #37

Tahiti 2:44.50
Wallis and Fatuna

Guam 2:42.31
Women's 500 Meter Heat #38

Fiji 2:40.11
New Caledonia 2:43.17

Palau 2:45.91
Men's 500 Meter (One Man)

Heat #39
Wallis and Fatuna 2:29.22

Fiji 2:44.24
CNMI 2:58.66

Men's 500 Meter (One Man)

Heat #40
Tahiti 2:18.59

New Caledonia 2:27.85
Guam 2:41.90

Women's 500 Meter (One Man) Heat #41

New Caledonia 2:58.70
Fiji 3:09.50

Palau 3:23.73
Women's 500 Meter (One Man)

Heat #42
Tahiti

Wallis and Fatuna
CNMI

Men's 2500 Meter Heat #43
Tahiti 12:21.65

Guam 13:19.24
Fiji 13:54.85

Men's 2500 Meter Heat #44
New Caledonia 12:48.07

Wallis and Fatuna 12:54.39
Palau 13:41.42

Women's 2500 Meter Heat #45
New Caledonia 14:29.62

Guam 14:40.94
Fiji 14:42.22

Women's 2500 Meter Heat #46
Tahiti

Palau
CNMI

Men's 250 Meter (One Man)

Heat #47
Wallis and Fatuna 1:10.41

New Caledonia 1:11.95
Fiji 1:17.60

Men's 250 Meter (One Man)

Heat #48
Tahiti 1:06.53

Palau 1:19.24
Guam 1:20.78

Women's 250 Meter (One Man)

Heat #49
Tahiti 1:28.98

Palau 1:35.17
Wallis and Fatuna 1:36.93

Women's 250 Meter (One Man)

Heat #50
New Caledonia 1:28.89

Fiji 1:29.02
Guam 1:47.34

Kim...

Continued from page 28

223 after three rounds.

Guam's James Honda falls to seventh place with a 229.

Jess Wabul also slid in the standings as he shot a high 83 in yesterday's action, for a three-day 237 total.

Eddie Peter still struggling at

29 place after shooting an 86 yesterday. His three-day total fell to 245.

Joseph Camacho is in 34 place with yesterday's sub-par performance at 87 on round-three.

In men's team competition, CNMI slipped to sixth place after three rounds. They had earlier posted a third place finish after two rounds.

Team CNMI shot 241 yesterday to push their gross score to 704.

Team Fiji is still in the lead with a three-day gross of 681, tied with team New Caledonia who is in second place.

Samoa takes up third place with a gross score 693 after three days. Papua New Guinea's three-day total, 697 places them in fourth.

The final round of competitions takes place today.

mercy-rule finish.

Statistically Guam connected for 32 hits for 28 runs and eight home runs.

For CNMI, they had 28 hits, 18 runs and eight home runs.

Guam's Ray Agnon and Ben Reyes went 5-for-5, with four and five homeruns respectively.

John Diaz and Paython went 3-for-4 with one and two homeruns respectively.

One more...

Continued from page 28

and went to a base-hit strategy.

With the bases loaded, Guam's Mike Cepeda connected for a towering, three-RBI homer over center field, — just missing the overhead flood lights by inches.

But CNMI came right back with back-to-back homeruns by Kani and John Diaz.

An excellent double-play by Guam's first baseman gave CNMI one out left in the fifth inning,

when Tony Luzama connected for a two-RBI homer over right field, for a 16-15 lead.

Guam then scored four runs at the bottom of the fifth inning and took back the lead at 20-16.

The top of sixth (inning) handed CNMI another back-to-back home runs by Winsor Ngiraibiochel and Paython Rdial.

Then Guam did what the crowd had expected they were capable of.

Letting it lose and going back to a slugging tactic in the bottom of sixth inning, Guam scored an astonishing 16-runs, for a 28-18

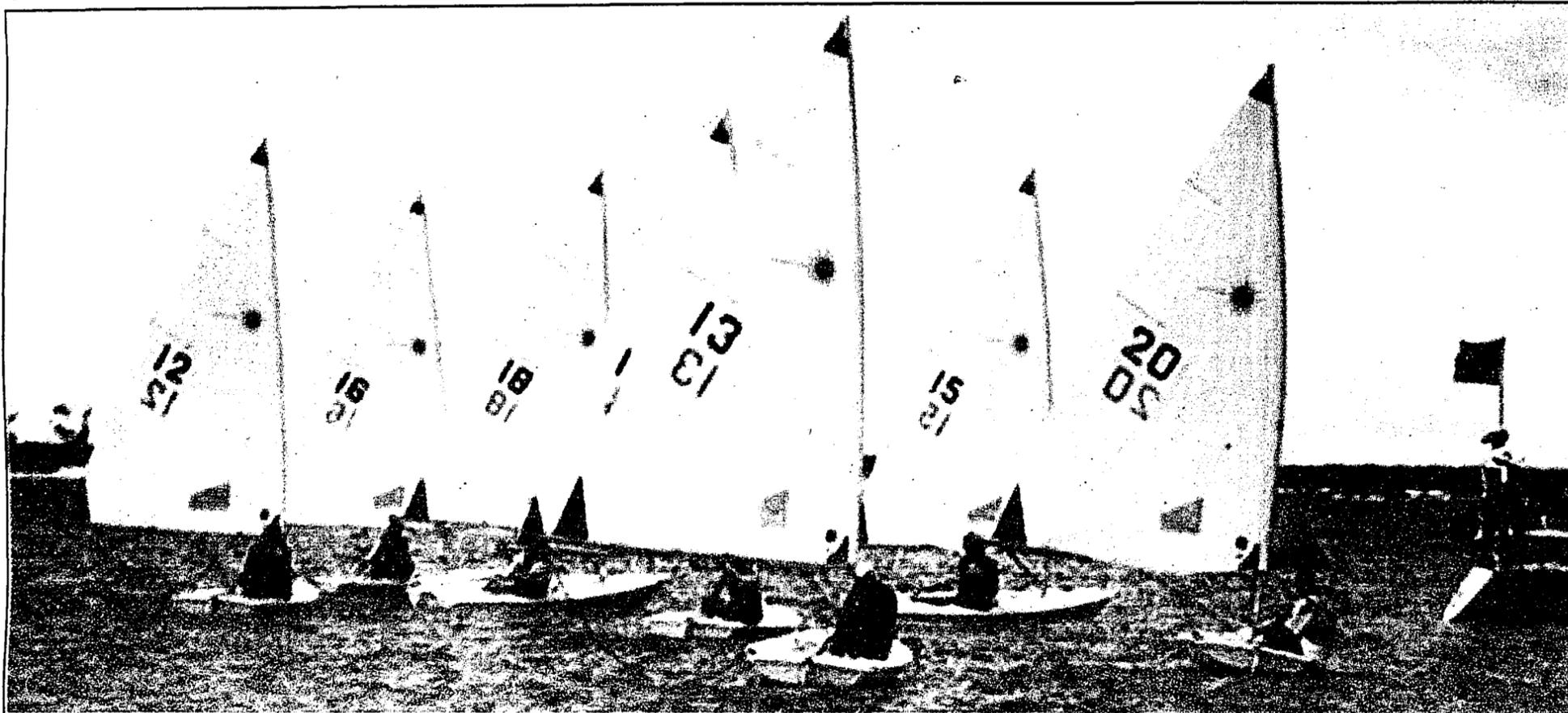
New Caledonia swimming sensation harvests golds

page 27



Guam basketball team to be playing for gold

page 27



Over a dozen laser boats competed yesterday in the blue waters of Apra Harbor during the sailing competition for the South Pacific Games.

Photo by Eduardo C. Siguenza

Outrigger events

NMI in medal round

By Laila C. Younis
Variety News Staff

FOR THE love of water, for the love of paddling.

Paddlers from Guam, Tahiti, Wallis and Fatuna, New Caledonia, Fiji and Palau, closed the 1999 South Pacific Games Semi-Final Competition yesterday, and are racing for the gold today at Matapang Beach Park.

The Guam Men's Team sailed into second place in the 500 Meter Semi-Final against Wallis and Fatuna, who took first, and CNMI, who took third, and were dismissed from the race.

The 500 Meter was the only

event the CNMI Men's Team qualified for in the Preliminaries, and they fought a tight race with Guam in the Semi-Finals, missing the finish line by only two seconds.

"It was a hard race. It was scorching hot and we were pulling water to the best of our ability. We'll learn, and next time, we'll catch up," said CNMI Paddler Dave Guerrero.

The Guam Women's Team also lead an exciting race against New Caledonia and Fiji in the 2,500 Meter Semi-Final. New Caledonia pulled forward and took first, but Guam clipped two sec-

onds from Fiji and grabbed second.

"That was the hardest race so far. We were so close all the way, and we were driving in all we got," said Guam Women's Team Leader Annie Gabriel.

"For the finals, we are going to do a lot of training, and a lot of praying. We are going to focus and do our best to win," she said.

Tahiti proved to a formidable force, once more, taking first in all the Heats they participated in, sometimes leaving 100 to 200 meter gaps between their competitors.

Continued on page 26

One more chance for CNMI slowpitch gold

By Tony Cells
Variety News Staff

A LATE afternoon ballgame pitted CNMI against Guam in men's slowpitch (softball) competition with Guam scoring 16 runs in the sixth inning for a, 28—18, ten-run rule, victory, at Guerrero Stadium.

The Northern Marianas team however still has one more chance for a silver or gold medal after today's ballgame against Palau. Should CNMI win they (CNMI) will once more play team Guam.

CNMI is sitting on a bronze

medal at the moment.

With the bleachers nearly overflowing with softball fans rooting both teams on the spectators were treated to an fun and exciting ballgame as the two power-houses ballclubs slammed away in effort to see who which player could slam one the farthest.

In the end it was team Guam coming out on top.

After three innings of action Guam trailed by one run at, 8—9.

Then Guam changed tactics

Continued on page 26

Kim advances in golf

By Tony Cells
Variety News Staff

AFTER three rounds of golf at the Guam International Country Club in Dededo, CNMI's Michael Kim has moved into the number four position, in men's individual competition.

Kim shot a third-round gross

72 for 227 total, tied with Julian Foret of New Caledonia who currently holds third place.

In first place is Daven Gopal of Fiji with a three-day, 221 total.

Following in second place is New Caledonia's Loic Truet at,

Continued on page 26

NMI out of fastpitch competition

By Tony Cells
Variety News Staff

THE FEDERATED States of Micronesia pulled off an, 12—7 upset over the CNMI men's fastpitch softball team yesterday at Guerrero Stadium in Hagatna.

The defeat ended CNMI's search for medal with rival Guam, as the loss eliminates them from further competition.

The ballgame appeared promising for CNMI in the opening inning.

Leading off for CNMI, Jess

Peterson reached first on an FSM shortstop error. Dennis Ngeskeibe advanced Peterson on a single before Melvin Sakisat loaded the bases on a walk.

Greg C. Camacho delivered

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P.O. Box 231 Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. (670) 234-6341 • 7578 • 9797
Fax: (670) 234-9271
E-mail: younis@gtepacificca.net
mvariety@gtepacificca.net

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Fax: (671) 649-4687 FROM SAIPAN MP
E-mail: yas@gtepacificca.net

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